MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 APRIL 1983

Lebanon

Tripartite Negotiations -- Israel and Lebanon have agreed that Israel will be able to conduct up to 10 mobilized patrols daily in the southern Lebanon security areas in conjunction with Lebanese Army officers, Jerusalem radio announced in a report on the outcome of the 31 March negotiations in Qiryat Shemona. The IDF patrols will be able to spend the night on Lebanese territory, the radio said, and no restrictions will be imposed on their movements to or from the area. Although the question of Major Sa'd Haddad's status remains open, Israel may compromise on this issue so long as Haddad is assured an "honorable" status, the radio said. Beirut radio subsequently noted the Israeli report on the agreement for joint patrols without confirming or denying its veracity. Earlier the Lebanese spokesman at Qiryat Shemona said progress was made in the negotiations but added that some differences in views persisted because Lebanon is concerned for its sovereignty, the radio reported. According to Jerusalem radio, the Lebanese spokesman told Israeli correspondents that Lebanon has "reached the limit" of its concessions, has nothing more to give, and will not compromise on anything concerning its sovereignty. Meanwhile, President Amin al-Jumayyil said in Beirut that Lebanon rejects a "dictated" peace, Beirut radio noted.

ADF Disbandment -- President al-Jumayyil has formally dissolved the Arab Deterrent Forces, AFP reported citing sources in Beirut. The decision will render the Syrian presence "de facto" and its only practical effect will be to restore to Lebanon buildings leased to the ADF, AFP noted.

Soldatov Remarks -- After meeting with the Lebanese foreign minister, Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov denied that Soviet experts are in Lebanon and described the recent Soviet Government statement on the Middle East as a "clear warning" to Israel, according to reports by the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio and AFP.

Military, Security Situation -- Israeli and Syrian forces in the Al-Biqa' area exchanged artillery fire during the night of 30 March and the Israelis subsequently reinforced their positions with heavy tanks, AFP reported. In other developments Voice of Lebanon radio broadcast a Phalangist Lebanese Forces statement warning the Progressive Socialist Party not to violate the Ash-Shuf cease-fire agreement and Maj Haddad announced that the "free Lebanon" militia will henceforth "not be responsible for the safety of any member of UNIFIL." Haddad's statement, which was broadcast by Voice of Hope radio, came in response to the alleged murder of a Lebanese doctor by a Fijian UNIFIL soldier. In Beirut an explosion near a PLO industrial establishment caused heavy damage, the Voice of Lebanon reported on 1 April.

Israel

Begin on Soviet Warning, POW's -- "I do not think that Syria will attack us, and we definitely have no intention whatsoever of attacking Syria," Prime Minister Menahem Begin declared in a statement broadcast by Jerusalem radio. Speaking after discussing topical issues with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, Begin said Israelis should neither scoff nor panic at the recent Soviet threats and warnings, which "are founded on a completely artificial basis." He also described the current failure to secure the release of IDF POW's held by the PLO as a "very grave matter."

Reaction to Reagan Statement -- Responding to President Reagan's statement that the United States cannot supply Israel's new F-16's while the IDF remains in Lebanon, an Israeli political source cited by Jerusalem radio described Reagan's remarks as "very bizarre" since Israel's operation in Lebanon was only for "self-defense," adding that all talk about Israeli occupation is "infuriating."

West Bank -- Village Legue member 'Abd al-Lahib Ash'ar, the mukhtar of a village near Qalqilyah, was shot dead inside his car, ITIM reported. Earlier, Jerusalem radio reported that disturbances broke out in Tarqumiyah village following the death of an Arab youth on 30 March.

Syria

CPSU General Secretary Yuriy Andropov will pay an official visit to Syria in April, according to Cairo radio and QNA. Although both reports cited sources in Damascus, monitored Syrian and Soviet media have not mentioned any such visit by Andropov. Meanwhile Jerusalem radio cited an unconfirmed report by the London weekly AL-HAWADITH that the Soviet Union recently supplied Syria with SAM-11's and MIG-27's.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Jordan on 31 March for a visit during which he will hold talks with King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials, Amman radio reported. The Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee subsequently met to review Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the "joint move within the Arab action," the radio noted. In a statement broadcast by Amman television, 'Arafat said the Jordanian-Palestinian talks will focus on details of a joint stand and he reemphasized the PNC's commitment to a confederal union with Jordan. Palestinian sources cited by Radio Monte Carlo and AFP affirmed that the PLO will not for the time being agree to the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to participate in possible peace negotiations.

In another development leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, As-sa'Iqah, and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front arrived in Libya, according to JANA.

Gulf Pollution

Environment ministers from Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the UAE, and Bahrain will meet in Kuwait on 6 April to discuss the pollution caused by oil leaking from Iran's Nowruz field, WAKH reported. Experts from the countries will meet in Bahrain on 4 April to preapre a report on the situation for the ministers. According to another WAKH report, Qatar has decided to construct a barrier to protect Doha from the slick, which is approaching Qatar's coast.

Algerian-Moroccan Relations

The Algerian and Moroccan interior ministers began talks in Algiers on 30 March, APS reported. They agreed to work toward measures "capable of speeding up the establishment of the Arab Maghreb" and confirmed the need for cooperation and the resumption of bilateral exchanges at all levels, according to a related MAP report.

Egypt

Mubarak Far East Visit -- President Husni Mubarak left for Beijing on the first leg of a tour during which he will visit the PRC, DPRK, Japan, and Indonesia, Cairo radio reported.

Cancellation of Bishops' Expulsion -- The authorities canceled the decision to expel five Greek Orthodox bishops after Patriarch Alexander Nicolas VI withdrew his request for their expulsion, AFP reported citing a Cairo diplomatic source.

Sudan

Security police arrested six Libyan agents at Sudanese border posts, SUNA reported.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 064 *1 April 1983*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Arab League Council Endorses Resolutions [KUNA] A 1
Text of 'Arafat Land Day Speech in Damascus A 6
[Baghdad Voice of PLO]
'Arafat: Standing Invitation To Visit France A 8
Baghdad Voice of PLO on Land Day Operations A 9
Klibi Sees Israeli 'Provocations' as 'New Danger' [KUNA] A 9
Abu Sittah Comments on Janin Incidents A 9
[Baghdad Voice of PLO]

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

Iran To Join Manama Meeting on Gulf Oil Slick C 1

KUWAIT

Assembly Debates U.S. Land Leasing Decision C 1
[ARAB TIMES 30 Mar]

QATAR

State To Construct Protective Barrier Around Doha C 2

SAUDI ARABIA

As-Sulayyim, U.S. Secretary Block Hold Talks C 2
Block Arrives in Jidda C 3
Departs Jidda 31 Mar C 4

UAE

AL-KHALIJ Calls for Support of 'Arafat Decision [1 Apr] C 4

PDRY

Soviet Party Government Delegation Arrives 31 Mar C 4
Economic Delegation Returns From GDR 31 Mar C 5
Chairman Receives Algerian Industry Minister C 5

EGYPT

President Mubarak Leaves for Beijing 31 Mar D 1
MAY on Exchange of Ambassadors With USSR [27 Mar] D 1
Interview With Butrus Ghali by AL-HAWADITH [1 Apr] D 1
South African Aggression on Lesotho Condemned D 3
Expulsion of Greek Orthodox Bishops Canceled D 4
163 Defendants in Al-Jihad Case Released D 4
Mubarak Arrives in Beijing on Far East Tour [cross-reference] D 4

IRAQ

Iranian Battle Losses Reported 29-31 March E 1
Communique No 1,044 E 1
Communique No 1,045 E 1
Ramadan Expects No Surprises on Front E 2
Ba'th Party Delegation Returns From Morocco E 2
Ministers Meet With GDR's Albrecht 30 Mar E 2

JORDAN

Reportage on Yasir 'Arafat's Visit to Amman F 1
Arrives, Issues Statement F 1
Joint Committee Meets F 1
'Arafat Chairs Meeting F 2
Monte Carlo on Visit F 2
Husayn Meeting Postponed [Radio Monte Carlo] F 3
More on Postponement F 3
SAWT ASH-SHA'B Comment F 3
'Arafat Reportedly Met With U.S. Envoy F 4
[AKHBAR AL-USBU' 31 Mar]
Husayn, Qabus Briefed on Israeli Settlements 30 Mar F 4

LEBANON

VOH on Agreement on Joint Patrols With Israel G 1
Beirut Cites Israeli Report G 1
President to U.S. Group on 'Dictated' Peace G 1
Riyadh Government Reportedly Seeking 'Mini-Summit' G 2
[Voice of Arab Lebanon]
Plenary Session Ends; Spokesman Views Talks G 3
Progress in Talks G 3
Soldatov Denies Presence of Soviet Experts G 4
[Voice of Arab Lebanon]
AFP: President Dissolves Arab Deterrent Force G 4
Haddad: No Longer Responsible for UNIFIL Safety G 4
French Envoy on Salim Request to EC Countries G 5
Pierre al-Jumayyil Discusses Front Meeting G 6
Salim on Talks With U.S. Officials in Washington G 6
[London AL-HAWADITH 25 Mar]
Salim on Prospects of Israeli Withdrawal G 9
[London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Mar]
Press on Difficulties of Habib's Mission G 11

SYRIA

Reports Say Andropov To Visit Syria in April H 1
Doha QNA Report H 1
Cairo Radio Report H 1
Al-Kasm Praises USSR Statement, Support H 1
Ba'th Official Receives Nicaraguan Delegation H 2
Al-Asad Receives Message From Chadli Bendjedid H 2

ISRAEL

Reagan Withholds Delivery of New F-16's I 1
Officials Criticizes Reagan I 1
Reaction to Soviet Accusations on Syria I 2
Begin Comments I 2
Senior Source Comments I 2
U.S. Action Expected [MA'ARIV 31 Mar] I 2

Soviet Envoy Denies Advisers in Lebanon I 3
Cairo Reports Andropov To Visit Syria in April I 4
Schiffer on Soviet Involvement in Syria I 4
Reportage on Talks in Qiryat Shemona I 4
31 Mar Talks I 4
Spokesman Comment I 5
Progress Reportedly Made I 6
More on Progress I 7
Agreement on Joint Patrols I 7
Peres, Begin Meet in Jerusalem 31 Mar I 8
Discuss Romania, Lebanon I 8
More on Meeting I 8
No Talks With PLO I 9
Radio Sums Up 30 March Land Day Events I 10
Health Ministry Says Janin Poisonings Unfounded I 10
Janin Rejects Findings I 11

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

FLN Sees Bendjedid's Tunisia Visit as Promising Q 1
SWAPO's Nujoma on Angola, Namibia 'Linkage' Q 1
Commitment to OPEC Benchmark Price Reaffirmed Q 2
Algerian-Angolan Joint Communique Noted Q 2
Further Report Q 3
Algerian, Mauritanian Foreign Ministers Meet Q 4
Communique on Tanzanian Visit by FLN Members Q 4
[EL MOUDJAHID 18-19 Mar]
Moroccan Interior Minister Visit Algeria Q 7
Meets Foreign Minister Q 7
Talks Begin 30 March Q 7
Interior Ministers Confer [MAP] Q 7

LIBYA

Iranian Military Delegation Visits Libya Q 8
Tours Commando School Q 8
Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Group [Tehran] Q 8
Libya, PDRY Sign Economic Agreement in Aden Q 8
Palestinian Resistance Leaders Arrive in Tripoli Q 9

SUDAN

More Libyan 'Agents' Arrested at Entry Points Q 9
Numayri's Address on Martyrs Day Reported Q 10
Assembly Committee Discusses USSR-Libya Treaty Q 10

EAST AFRICA

KENYA

Vice President on Founding of Party Paper R 1
[THE NAIROBI TIMES 30 Mar]

UGANDA

Obote Address Opens Parliament Session R 2

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

ANGOP on CSSR Deputy Foreign Minister's Arrival U 1
Cuban Finance Director on 30-Day Visit U 1
Party Organs Begin Meeting in Luanda U 1

BOTSWANA

Government Refugee Measures Reported 1 Apr [Harare] U 2

LESOTHO

Commentary Notes Sarcasm of S. African Replies U 2
Foreign Minister on Motive for Attacks U 3
[Johannesburg THE STAR 29 Mar]
Opposition Leader Calls on Jonathan To Resign [Umtata] U 3

MALAWI

Banda Announces General Elections This Year U 3

MOZAMBIQUE

VOFA Reports Discontent, Worsening Conditions U 4
[Voice of Free Africa]
Financial Cooperation Agreement Signed With FRG U 5

NAMIBIA

SWAPO Leader Nujoma Comments on Issues U 6

SOUTH AFRICA

Ciskei's Leader Reports ANC Arms Cache Found U 6
Venda Offers Military Aid Against SWAPO U 7
Armscor Cuts 850 Jobs in Staff Reduction Scheme U 7
Rule of Commission on Kangwane Defined U 7
Radio Ndebele Inaugurated in Pretoria 29 Mar U 7

SWAZILAND

Supreme Council Statement on Mabandla Departure U 8

ZIMBABWE

Fuel Restrictions Lifted Beginning 1 April U 8

ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL ENDORSES RESOLUTIONS

LD312219 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1912 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis, 31 Mar (KUNA) -- The Arab League Council this afternoon postponed discussion of the Arab fund for rebuilding what was destroyed by the war in Lebanon until next month when an emergency session will be held at the delegate level. The postponement was caused by the Lebanese delegation's reservations about rebuilding the Palestinian camps.

During its general meeting Monday, the Arab League Council unanimously agreed, with the exception of the Lebanese delegation, that the rebuilding of what was destroyed by the Lebanon war should cover the houses of the Palestinians inside their camps, where they have been living since 1948.

During a 5-hour debate today, the Arab League Council continued its discussion of the resolutions and recommendations adopted by its subcommittees and approved most of them.

Discussing the memorandum of the Arab League Secretariat General on Zionist settlements in the occupied Arab territories, the Council agreed that the Arab bloc at the United Nations should call for a meeting of the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution affirming its earlier resolutions on this matter -- Nos 446, 452, and 456 -- reiterating its denunciation of these policies and practices and its condemnation of Israel's persistence with and determination to continue the implementation of these policies and practices; reiterating that they are unlawful and null and void; reiterating the demand to halt these policies and practices immediately and to dismantle the existing settlements; reiterating the need for the implementation of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter against Israel in view of its refusal to abide by the said resolutions of the UN Security Council and its persistence with these policies and practices, which will have grave consequences for the peace and security of the region as well as the world; and reiterating the call to all countries to refrain from giving any help whatsoever to Israel that could help it to continue these practices.

The Arab League Council called for intensive contacts with the UN Security Council member countries and particularly the permanent members to explain to them the dangers and effects of Israel's persistence with these colonization policies and practices on the conditions in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and on the efforts being exerted to establish peace in the Middle East.

It stated that the Arab delegation should raise the question of the Zionist settlements at various international conferences to explain its dimensions and dangers and call for its denunciation and condemnation.

It also stated that the Arab League Secretariat General should hold an international seminar in 1984 on the question of the "Zionist settlements in the occupied Arab territories" to which specialists from all over the world would be invited to present theses covering the legal and political and other aspects of the matter, as well as representatives from the various international organizations and bodies concerned. The necessary favorable information conditions will be provided for this seminar and its full work will be published as widely as possible in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish. The parties concerned will draw up an Arab housing strategy in the occupied territories to thwart the Zionist policy of colonization, provided that the necessary funds for the implementation of this strategy come from the Arab countries honoring their commitments to support the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

The Council called for the denunciation of the U.S. support for the Zionist entity in providing it with military and economic aid which promotes its racist, expansionist practices. The Council also called for raising the question of the settlements at mass meetings to be held in Europe and the United States to enlighten the masses in these countries about the matter and the dangers inherent therein.

Calling on the Arab countries to strengthen their military and economic capabilities to face up to Israel's aggressive policy, the Arab League Council decided that the question of bolstering the housing policies in the occupied Arab territories to face up to the Zionist colonization threat should be placed on the agenda of the Arab housing ministers meeting to be held in Tripoli next month.

With regard to the repressive Israeli practices against civilians in the occupied Arab territories, the Arab League Council called on the Arab group at the United Nations to convene a Security Council session to discuss the escalation of these Israeli practices against the civilian population in the occupied territories and to issue a resolution calling for the ending of the Israeli occupation as a prelude to granting the Palestinian people their right to self-determination on their homeland and condemning these practices which include: the annexation of parts of the occupied territories; the clearing of Arab inhabitants from the occupied territories and their deportation and expulsion; denying their right to return; the confiscastion and expropriation of Arab property; the destruction and demolition of houses; mass arrests; ill treatment of detainees; the plundering of antiquities and cultural property; interference in religious freedom and practices; violation of the inviolability of the holy places; interference in educational activities and the hindering of such activities; the barbaric repression of all forms of views and expression; the unlawful exploitation of natural resources and the resources of the occupied territories and their inhabitants; the arming of settlers in the occupied territories to commit acts of violence against Arab civilians, and merging the economy of the West Bank with the colonialist economy of the Zionist entity.

The Council also demanded that the UN Security Council resolution should also include a declaration that these practices constitute, in part, war crimes, and as a whole a challenge to humanity and to international charters, norms, and agreements concerning the treatment of civilians under occupation and to the various resolutions that the United Nations has issued in this connection. The resolution should also demand that Israel stop such practices immediately and release the detainees and that it pay compensation for the victims and those harmed by such practices. It should also call emphatically on all states to stop any assistance to Israel that could be used in the carrying out of these practices.

The Council called on the Arab states to carry out intensive contacts with the members of the Security Council, particularly the permanent members, to explain the dangers and consequences arising from such practices, and to appeal to the world public and all religious, moral, and political authorities throughout the world to intensify pressure to rebut the dangers to which civilian inhabitants in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories are being exposed, and which are a threat to Jerusalem and to the other Arab holy places in the occupied territories.

The Council also called on the Arab delegations taking part in the UN human rights committee and other international lobbies to stress the dangers and consequences of the Israeli practices and violations to conditions in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and to peace and security in the region. It urged the Arab states to fulfill their commitments to back the steadfast compatriots in the occupied territories and called on the Arab League secretary general, competent quarters in the Arab states, and the PLO to contact the UN secretary general and urge him to follow up implementation of the UN General Assembly resolutions on this subject.

When discussing the conditions of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon in the aftermath of the Zionist invasion, the Council demanded that the specialist bodies of the Lebanese Government, in cooperation with the specialist bodies of the PLO and the UN Relief and Works Agency, deal with the social, educational, health, and housing conditions of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, taking into consideration the laws and regulations in force in Lebanon, and carry out a comprehensive survey of all damage caused to the Palestinians in Lebanon by the Zionist invasion.

It also called on the specialist bodies of the host Arab countries and the PLO to undertake contacts with UNRWA in order to deal with the measures pertaining to the employees of this agency, the detainees, the prisoners, and the exiled. The Lebanese delegation expressed reservations over the resolution justifying this, saying: Dealing with the conditions of all those resident in Lebanon is the domain of the Lebanese Government in accordance with the laws and regulations which are in force and from this stand we see no room for the formation of an action team for this purpose, in addition to the fact that this subject is being dealt with at present at the highest levels between the parties concerned. Therefore, we express reservations over the recommendations, and the PLO can at any time contact the Lebanese authorities in order to deal directly with them on all subjects, but agreeing to the formation of action teams contradicts Lebanese sovereignty.

The Council condemned the crime of poisoning hundreds of Palestinian students committed by the Israelis and called on the World Health Organization and the International Red Cross to stage an immediate investigation of these crimes aimed at genocide in implementation of expansionist racist objectives.

The Council called on the UN secretary general to send a fact-finding team to investigate the crimes being committed in the occupied territories which deny international charters, agreements, and resolutions concerning the protection of the civilian population under occupation and to organize a trial of those responsible for those crimes being committed against mankind.

The Council called on the big powers responsible for the preservation of world peace and security and all countries of the world to carry out their duties with regard to this flagrant aggression to which the Palestinian people in the occupied territories are being subjected and which threatens serious repercussions for the whole region.

Discussing the issue of UNRWA's stopping the distribution of the aid allocations to the Palestinian refugees, the Council decided to invite all bodies concerned in the host countries and the PLO to continue their contacts with the general commissioner of the agency to bring about resumed distribution of the aid allocations approved for the refugees in implementation of the aid resolutions of the UN General Assembly in this respect. The Council also called on the Arab group at the United Nations to continue their efforts with the UN secretary general to achieve implementation of the resolutions which represents the will of the international community in regard to this issue.

The resolution of the Council said concerning this matter that in the event of the nonresumption of immediate distribution or of foot-dragging in its implementation, the matter will be raised by one of the host countries or by the PLO before the Arab League Council so that the necessary measures can be taken.

The Council called for the confirmation of Arab League Resolution No 3,961 issued on 15 September 1980 concerning the responsibility of the international community for assisting the Palestinians and rejection of any reduction or dropping of any services by the agency and warning against the attempt to limit the assistance program to so-called difficult cases. It also called on those who are in charge of Palestinian affairs in the host countries and in the PLO and also in the General Secretariat -- the general administration for Palestinian affairs -- to prepare studies and proposals concerning the financing of the UNRWA budget and the ways of spending it, in preparation for its discussion at the forthcoming session of the conference of supervisors, considering this to be among the responsibilities of the international community.

Concerning the call issued by the director general of UNESCO for an urgent allocation for UNRWA to begin the new educational year, the Council decided that Arab delegations at the various conferences, international gatherings, and bodies concerned, including UNESCO, should always affirm the responsibility of the international community through UNRWA, above all those countries responsible for the Palestine disaster and its continuation. The Council also confirmed that those delegations should explain the services provided by the host and other Arab countries and the political, financial, social, and security burdens shouldered by them with regard to the Palestinian refugees. The Council also called on the bodies concerned in the host countries, the PLO, the Arab organization for education, culture, and science, and the Arab group at UNESCO to undertake the necessary contacts with the director general of UNESCO in order to make him play his role so as to protect the education of sons of the Palestinian refugees from threats and ask UNRWA to abandon the constant policy of threatening to stop its educational services because this contradicts human rights and obstructs the technical task entrusted by the UNESCO to the agency's schools. The Council called for the preservation of the agency's services unit and rejected any separation of those services.

In the sphere of travel formalities, residence, and work of Palestinians in Arab countries, the Council approved the decision that the Arab League General Secretariat should carry out necessary contacts with the Arab states that have not yet signed the protocol on treatment of Palestinians in Arab countries and urge them to sign this protocol and to implement its provisions.

The Council called for facilitating the task of the PLO in bilateral contacts with the competent authoroties in the Arab countries in order to implement the decisions of the Arab interior ministers and the protocol on treatment of Palestinians in Arab countries. The Council also called on the PLO to begin contacts with the competent authorities in the Arab countries that have not yet signed this protocol in order to overcome the difficulties that confront Palestinians when entering and leaving Arab countries, in furtherance of the provisions of the protocol on treatment of Palestinians in Arab countries which was signed by the Arab foreign ministers on 10 September 1965 in Casablanca.

The Council demanded that Arab participation in and representation at the international conference on the Palestinian issue which will be held under the auspices of the United Nations at the UNESCO headquarters from 12 to 27 August 1983, and at its preparatory conferences, be on a high level, and that the Arab countries should conduct urgent and concentrated contacts with the various countries to urge them to participate in the conference and to work for its success in achieving its objectives of enhancing international awareness of the Palestinian issue [word indistinct] to gain effective international support to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights in Palestine according to the UN resolutions.

The Council also called for denunciation of the U.S. stand -- which is hostile to Arab rights in occupied Palestine -- that surfaced clearly when the United States voted against the resolutions pertaining to these rights adopted by the UN General Assembly in its 37th session. It also urged that policies related to the Palestinian issue should be the basic criteria in determining Arab states' dealings with other countries of the world.

With regard to the twinning of Jerusalem with Arab cities, the Council called on the competent quarters in the Arab states to cooperate with the PLO to achieve the twinning between Arab capitals on one hand and the holy city of Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Arab cities on the other. Such twinning must be based on specific programs aimed at helping the religious, cultural, social, and health institutions so that they can continue to render their services. The Council called on the organization of Arab cities to take part in consolidating such twinning, which is based on specific programs. It also requested that this topic be submitted to the conference of Arab municipalities to be held in Algiers which will study it and adopt the necessary steps for its implementation.

Discussing the educational affairs of Palestinian children in Lebanon, the Council stressed the need to set up a committee within the framework of the League to cooperate with the quarters concerned to study the educational conditions of the Palestinian children in Lebanon and to launch an urgent campaign among the states, organizations, and institutions concerned in this matter to insure the necessary requirements for the return of the school buildings of the children of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and the supply of necessary equipment. The Lebanese delegation took exception to this resolution, claiming that Lebanon cannot discuss such a topic with any body or group that has been set up or formed by a non-Lebanese will.

Discussing the Israeli nuclear power issue, the Council called for the continuation of the efforts within the framework of the United Nations for the implementation of the UN General Assembly resolution adopted at its 36th session which calls on the Security Council to adopt sanctions against Israel and for the continuation of the Arab efforts and the intensification of Arab contacts with various states to suspend Israel's membership in the energy agency, as well as for expediting the setting up of the specialized Arab apparatus in atomic energy affairs within the framework of the Arab League in accordance with the Arab cooperation agreement on the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, stressing the need for effective coordination between this apparatus and the other pan-Arab and regional apparatuses and organizations working in this field.

Concerning information, the Council unanimously agreed to appoint the PLO's candidate, Mr (Abdallah Horani), chairman of the permanent committee for Arab information for 2 years.

During the discussion of the Arab countries' attitude toward the U.S. Congress decision on the expulsion of Israel from the United Nations or suspending its membership, the Council demanded the continuation of efforts to expel Israel from or suspend its membership in the United Nations and its specialized agencies and the intensification of Arab efforts to contact the various countries of the world to explain the dangers of this American support of the Israel attitude. It also called on the Arab representatives at the United Nations to submit a comprehensive study on the various aspects of this subject, to charge the General Secretariat with the task of following up the subject, and to submit a report on the developments to the next session of the League's Council.

Regarding Israel's reservation of two positions for two satellites on the same orbit as the Arab satellite, the Council delegated the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to be charge, on behalf of all Arab countries and in coordination with the Arab Organization for Space Communications, of carrying out the necessary contacts with all countries and organizations concerned in order to take the appropriate technical measures to prevent Israel from implementing this aggressive project. The Council also demanded that all Arab countries exert the necessary efforts immediately with all countries and bodies to prevent the Zionist entity from implementing its aggressive project, thus facilitating the Saudi task in this regard, and to launch their complaints before the end of May. The council called on the Arab League secretary general to forward an urgent message, in the name of the League's Council, to the UN secretary general containing the repercussions that will result from the Israeli action and to start taking the necessary measures that will prevent Israel from implementing this project.

In discussing the question of military cooperation and exchanges between Israel and Taiwan, Thailand, and Singapore, the Arab League Council called on the General Secretariat to hold all necessary contacts with these countries, explaining to them the dangers inherent in their relations with Israel and their effect on relations with the Arab countries, to report on the results of these contacts to the next session of the Arab League Council, and to refer all procedural matters to the main office of the Arab Boycott of Israel for investigation, followup, and adoption of the necessary measures in accordance with the boycott laws and regulations. It also decided to call on Arab countries with relations with the abovementioned countries to exert efforts to persuade them to stop cooperating with Israel.

Regarding Costa Rica's ban on the entry of some Arab citizens into its territory, the Arab League Council approved the adoption by the Arab countries of similar measures against citizens of Costa Rica and opposition to all Costa Rican nominations to any post in the United Nations or its specialized agencies.

Concerning Arab-African cooperation, the Council endorsed the cooperation agreement between the Arab League and the OAU, the cooperation agreement concerning the boycott of the racist regimes of South Africa and occupied Palestine, and the basic laws and amendments governing the Arab-African Cultural Institute. The council called on the Arab League secretary general to pursue contacts with the main participants of the permanent committee and the OAU secretary general with a view to holding future meetings between the Arab and African cooperation bodies and insuring their success. The Arab League Council is expected to complete its meetings tomorrow after discussing the remaining financial, economic, and administrative topics on its agenda.

TEXT OF 'ARAFAT LAND DAY SPEECH IN DAMASCUS

JN311801 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1635 GMT 31 Mar 83

["Text" of speech delivered by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat -- indentified by nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar--at speech rally held in Damascus on 30 March on seventh anniversary of Land Day -- read by announcer]

[Text] Brethren: My brother and comrade in arms Dr George Habash was supposed to deliver the speech of the Palestinian revolution. However, as usual, he preferred me to himself and gave me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Palestinian revolution and the PLO.

Brethren, are meeting today in Damascus in solidarity with those steadfast heroes who are resisting in our occupied territory, defying Zionist colonialism which is fully backed by U.S. imperialism, on the occasion of their uprising on the Land Day. From here, on your behalf and in the name of our kinfolk and all free and honorable people in the world, in the socialist, Islamic, nonaligned, and African states, I tell them: You are not alone facing this enemy. We are all one heart facing the Zionist occupation and the U.S. crimes.

Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] continued: I tell them on Land Day that the land revolution if loyalty to the land and a continuation of the pledge. We swear by the land and by our loyalty to it that the revolution will continue until Palestinian and Arab lands are liberated and until the Palestinian flag is hoisted over Jerusalem walls, minarets, and churches. Yes, I tell my kinfolk, the steadfast people in the occupied territory, that we are aware of this pressure, terrorism, and repression. We are aware of the crimes being prepetrated against our schoolgirls and schoolboys and of the expropriation of lands, establishment of settlements and colonies, and encroachments on the holy shrines, churches, and Al-Aqsa Mosque.

I tell them that we cannot be uprooted from this land because it is the land of our fathers and forefathers. The bones of our grandfathers lie in it and the flag of this Palestinian revolution will be hoisted over it. In it, these generations, those flowers and cubs, will live.

Let everybody know that many colonialists have ruled over this land. The British, Tatars, and Franks ruled it and went away. The Zionists, likewise, will go away so that the land will remain Arab. Yes, the Zionists will go away so that the land will remain Arab. They are trying to uproot us from this land. However, they forgot, or pretend to forget, that these Palestinian people and this Arab nation are determined to continue along the course of the revolution until Palestine is liberated.

Yes, my brothers, some people are trying to ask: Do you want the land with the PLO or the land without the PLO? Do you want the PLO without the land or the land without the PLO? I tell them one thing: This question was once asked of the Algerian revolution and the Algerian people. They were asked: Do you want the land with or without the Algerian FLN? I tell them that the land is the PLO and the revolution and that the revolution is the people, all the people. I tell them even more: Before the Beirut battle the PLO was the Palestinian people's official spokesman. However, after the Beirut epic it became the official spokesman of all the Arab masses. I say this so that everybody will hear me, so that Begin, Reagan, and their agents in the region can hear me well.

Their attempts to divide the Palestinian people, the Arab nation's masses, and the PLO will be destroyed in the same way Israel's generals were destroyed at the gates of Beirut.

I say to them one thing only: Remember Beirut, the battles of Beirut, the battles of Lebanon and southern Lebanon, the battles of Ar-Rashidiyah, 'Ayn al-Hulwah, An-Nabatiyah, Ash-Shuqayf [Beaufort Castle], Ad-Damur, Hasbayah, Al-Biqa', and Bhamdun. Let them remember and realize fully that not all birds' flesh is edible.

Brother Abu 'Ammar added: I want to say that he who speaks about a settlement and capitulation does so as if he were in the slave market. I want to say to them that the revolution will continue until the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem are reached.

I want to tell you about what is happening now. They speak about settlement plans, Reagan's plan. Last week, before the meeting of the Higher Military Council, one of our friends from the USSR came to me and asked if it was possible to listen to him. We hear many things. I told him: I can give it to you in a few words. Some people wish the PLO would say yes to Reagan's plan so that they can say that it was a traitor. Others wish us to say no so that they can say: Thank God you said it rather than me. However, I told him that the revolution's position is firm: What they failed to achieve through war they cannot take from us through peace or maneuvers.

This must be understood. I have always said that the solution will be achieved by continuing to carry the rifle, because every settlement in the region comes from the barrel of the rifle. Our National Council stipulated this in its resolutions which expressed our unity inside and outside the occupied homeland. These resolutions always guide and direct us.

Brother Abu 'Ammar added: I say all this so that they can hear me and rest assured. They talk a lot, but the mountain cannot be shaken by the wind. Brothers, I know. I say to our people inside the occupied land and to our heroes in Ansar camp just as I said before the National Council: There is an agreement within the Executive Committee to free these detained heroes. We have 8 prisoners and we will free 1,000 detainees as well as the detainees in the Ansar camp in exchange for them. This is the decision of the Executive Committee. I say to these detainees inside the prisons and solitary cells: patience, patience. I say to our people inside the occupied land: I know there is confiscation of land every day and that settlements are set up every day. I know all these things. However, I want to say something else -- that these things cannot be a reason for blackmailing the people, the revolution, or the PLO. I say to them that I know the enemy's vileness at Sabra and Shatila and that it went as far as to poison our female students. This is genocide and I say: Where is the world conscience, where is the United Nations to tell this gang in Tel Aviv, which is protected by the U.S. Administration, that no one has been able to defeat this Palestinian people or this Arab nation? Our decision is clear and frank: We will continue the revolution until victory.

Brothers, we know we did not deceive anyone when we called upon you to join the revolution. We asked you to join a long-term war, a long-term popular war until we reach Jerusalem. I want to say to my kinfolk on Land Day, my kinfold in the triangle, Galilee, the Negev, Gaza, Hebron, Nabulus, Jerusalem, Janin, and Bet Sh'an that we will meet tomorrow morning, and morning is drawing nearer. And to enter your temple as they had entered it before, and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power. [Koranic verse]

'ARAFAT: STANDING INVITIATION TO VISIT FRANCE

NC311250 Paris AFP in English 1216 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Paris, March 31 (AFP) -- Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said in a press interview here that he had been invited to France by then President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and high level preparations had been started. He told the weekly FIGARO magazine which comes out tomorrow that "French senior officials came to see us to prepare this visit and work out a final communique." "I still have the invitation," he added.

Mr Giscard d'Estaing left office in May, 1981 when Socialist leader Francois Mitterrand was elected president.

Mr 'Arafat said that there were no plans "at present" for him to lead the PLO delegation to the United Nations conference on Palestine scheduled to be held in Paris next August. Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO political section, will lead the delegation, Mr 'Arafat said. The French Government is opposed to hold this conference in Paris, as decided by the UN General Assembly last August.

BAHRAIN

IRAN TO JOIN MANAMA MEETING ON GULF OIL SLICK

GF311922 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1820 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Sources on environmental protection announced in Manama today that a meeting of the experts of the regional organization for environmental protection in the Gulf states will be held in Bahrain next Monday.

The sources informed WAKH that delegations representing Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the UAE, and Bahrain will discuss the technical information about the current situation of pollution in the Gulf and the methods that can play an effective role in combatting the pollution resulting from oil that is leaking from the Iranian Nowruz field.

The sources announced that technical experts will submit a report on this matter to the ministers in charge of environmental protection in the same countries who will hold a meeting in Kuwait next Wednesday.

KUWAIT

ASSEMBLY DEBATES U.S. LAND LEASING DECISION

GF311132 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 30 Mar 83 pp 1, 4

[Excerpt] Kuwait's oil minister, Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Adhbi as-Sabah, said yesterday that the motive for the U.S. ban on leasing of federal land to Kuwait for oil searches may be political. He told the National Assembly that the U.S. was also motivated by the fact that the oil sector was a profitable one and the U.S. wanted to pull Kuwait out of it. He said the government would make political, diplomatic and legal efforts to get the decision changed. He said the Kuwaiti-owned Santa Fe Company was not affected financially because land were limited and could easily be changed for other territories. The ban, he said, would also not hamper the future activities of the company.

Deputy 'Adnan Abdul Samad quoted the oil minister as saying the Santa Fe Company had lost $20 million as a result of the U.S. decision but that the chairman of the company had said the losses amounted to $50 million for power projects and $9 million for rented land. He added that Kuwait had invested $2,500 million in the Sante Fe, and did not know what was going on. Deputy Samad said that the U.S. decision struck at Kuwait and its investments in Western countries. He said the assembly had demanded the boycott of the U.S. for its attitude towards Arab causes but "we pump more oil and have more deposits in the U.S. instead."

He added that Kuwait should learn from these actions and change its investment policy. "It is better to keep our oil in the ground than pump it out for the U.S. or Western countries," he said.

In reply, Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Adhbi as-Sabah said the Santa Fe assets in U.S. federal land amounted to about $14 million only. The chairman had meant that there were plans to invest $50 million in these lands. The minister explained that the main decision regarding the company were taken in Kuwait, and the company's board had a consultative role only. "This applies to all Kuwaiti-owned companies abroad," he said.

Deputy Khalid Sultan said the Zionist lobby in Washington was able to influence the U.S. Administration and that meant "our investments and deposits in the US are in danger." The oil minister pointed out that the government knew about the restriction on investment in U.S. federal land before the company was bought. He reiterated that only $14 million had been invested and it was easy to exchange the land for other land in the private sector.

The Santa Fe activities yielded about ten percent profit, and we had hoped the profit would be about 20 percent. He added that the experience of the company would enable Kuwait to carry out exploration and drilling projects in Arab, Asian and Islamic countries.

Deputy Badir al-Mudas said that if the company was profitable, the Americans would not have sold it. If Kuwait wanted to invest money, it should go to Islamic and Third World countries, he added.

Shakyh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Adhbi as-Sabah replied that Kuwait had made $350 million in profit from the first year's activity of the Santa Fe.

Deputies Muhamad al-Murshid, Salih al-Fadala, Yusuf ash-Shahin, and Miraykhan Sa'd then proposed closing the debate and asked the government to inform the assembly about its contacts to follow up the U.S. decision. The proposal was approved.

QATAR

STATE TO CONSTRUCT PROTECTIVE BARRIER AROUND DOHA

GF010556 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2019 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Doha, 31 Mar (WAKH) -- The State of Qatar has decided to construct a barrier around Doha to protect it from the expected pollution resulting from the oil spill leaking into the Gulf and approaching Qatar's coasts.

In a statement broadcast by the Qatari television and radio last night, Doha municipality called on construction contractors and truck owners to quickly bring their vehicles and discharge debris, construction waste materials, and other materials at the spot designated for the barrier at Ra's Abu 'Abbud. The municipality hoped that the citizens would join governmental departments in protecting the coasts from this threat.

Meanwhile, the Qatari Red Crescent Society called on citizens to join voluntarily Red Crescent groups to combat the oil slick.

It should be noted that a state of emergency is being declared in the Gulf region countries to combat the pollution resulting from the oil spill leaking from the Iranian Nowruz oilfield.

SAUDI ARABIA

AS-SULAYYIM, U.S. SECRETARY BLOCK HOLD TALKS

LD310109 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1250 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Riyadh, 30 Mar (SPA) -- Acting Minister of Agriculture and Water Dr Sulayman as-Sulayyim stated that during his meeting with U.S. Secretary for Agriculture John Block they discussed questions of developing the existing trade and agricultural relations between the Kingdom and the United States.

The minister, in a statement following the meeting, stressed that the Kingdom is producing larger quantities of wheat and barley and this means the country should reduce future imports of these grains from all countries that provide the Kingdom with them.

The acting minister of agriculture and water also mentioned that the possibility of making use of U.S. technical expertise in the agricultural sphere to overcome problems of nature [words indistinct] in the Kingdom and to improve the progress of agricultural development in order for our agricultural products to cover the country's needs in the near future.

He added that they also discussed strenghtening cooperation between the two countries, easing commercial measures, and expanding the varieties of U.S. imports of agricultural and other produce to the Kingdom in order to ensure for themselves a good market in the Kingdom.

The U.S. secretary, in a similar statement, expressed his country's readiness to cooperate fully with the Kingdom in the agricultural and commercial spheres, taking consideration that the United States is the Kingdom's biggest supplier of food products. The U.S. secretary described the talks he had with the acting minister of agriculture and water as being good and encouraging. He said that his country welcomes the policy followed by the Kingdom regarding abolishing government subsidies on imported goods in order to achieve self-sufficiency in food products through local production.

The U.S. secretary said he had informed of the Kingdom's desire not to import huge quantities of wheat and barley in the future because of their availability locally. He announced his country's readiness to continue in the long term to extend all forms of cooperation in the spheres of developing agricultural products in the Kingdom.

Block Arrives in Jidda

LD302308 Riyadh SPA in English 1917 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Jidda, March 30, SPA -- U.S. Agriculture Secretary John Block arrived here today from Riyadh as part of his current visit to the Kingdom.

Before leaving Riyadh, Mr block told reporters his talks with Saudi Commerce and acting Agriculture Minister Dr Sulayman as-Sulayyim were "good and encouraging." He added that his country welcomed the Kindgom's policy to abolish its subsidies for imported goods with the aim of realising self-sufficiency in food commodities through local production. He said he was informed of the Kingdom's desire to stop imports of big quantities of U.S. wheat and barley in future due to the increase of Saudi output. He added that the U.S."is ready to continue all forms of cooperation with the Kingdom in the field of promoting agriculture and agricultural commodities.

Dr as-Sulayyim said his talks with the visitng minister concentrated on bolstering agricultural cooperation between the two countries. He stressed that the Kingdom would reduce the import of wheat or barley from exporting countries because of a big increase in domestic production.

The deliberations also centered on making use of the U.S. technical know-how in the agricultural field so as to realise self-sufficiency in future.

In a statement on arrival here, Mr Block said his talks with Saudi officials were constructive and would help widen the scope of cooperation between the two countries in the agricultural domain. He added that discussions concentrated on consolidating commercial ties in the various fields and covered the prospect of exchainging technical know-how.

Mr Block expressed his country's readiness to provide all necessary technical aid designed to raise the Kingdom's agricultural output.

Departs Jidda 31 Mar

LD310944 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0915 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Jidda, 31 March (SPA) -- The U.S. secretary of agriculture, John Block, and his accompanying delegation left Jidda this morning after an official visit to the Kingdom lasting several days. During the visit, he held talks with officials in the Kingdom which included the topic of reinforcing cooperation between the two countries in the agricultural and commercial fields.

He was seen off at the airport by the U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom, Richard Murphy, and a number of officials.

UAE

AL-KHALIJ CALLS FOR SUPPORT OF 'ARAFAT DECISION

GF010830 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 Apr 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Ash-Shariquah, 1 Apr (WAM) -- In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-KHALIJ said Yasir 'Arafat's announcement of completely and categorically rejecting the U.S. plan "must be a political decision for the Palestinian revolution and should receive support and commitment from all the Arab governments."

The newspaper said that in his speech on Land Day, the day before yesterday, 'Arafat put an end to all speculation which indicated that the Palestinian leadership would retreat in the face of pressures. The newspaper added that 'Arafat's stand sprang from the revolution in the West Bank, Galilee, An-Naqab, and the Golan Heights, which is the genuine foundation on which he stands.

AL-KHALIJ said the Palestinian leadership does not see any alternative other than that which 'Arafat announced. "If the PLO recognizes Israel unilaterally as some people want it to do, it will only reap failure; if it accepts the U.S. plan, the Palestinian cause will be determined by the White House, Israel's strategic ally; and if it accepts any activity related to the Reagan plan, to whatever extent, it will lose its independent national decision completely," the paper adds.

The newspaper called for implementing all the PNC's resolutions, solidifying Palestinian national unity and escalating military action in the occupied territories.

PDRY

SOVIET PARTY GOVERNMENT DELEGATION ARRIVES 31 MAR

GF311730 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] The Soviet party and government delegation which includes Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, and Nikita Semenovich Ryzhov, first deputy foreign minister, arrived in Aden this morning on a visit to our country that will last several days. During that time, the delegation will hold talks with a number of brother officials in the party and the state. In a statement to ANA, Ryzhov explained that this visit comes within the framework of bolstering relations between the two friendly countries.

He indicated that he will hold talks on bilateral relations and on some aspects of the international situation.

The delegation was received at the airport by Brother Mahmud an-Najashi, YSP Central Committee member and deputy secretary of the Central Committee; Salih Abu Bakr ibn Hasanayn, Central Committee member and our ambassador to the Soviet Union; Muhammad 'Ali 'Nayah, deputy foreign minister; a number of officials from the Central Committee's Secretariat and the Foreign Ministry, and the Soviet ambassador in Aden.

ECONOMIC DELEGATION RETURNS FROM GDR 31 MAR

GF311735 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Our country's party and economic delegation, which is headed by Brother Hadi Ahmad Nasir, YSP Central Committee member and first secretary of the party organization in Aden province, returned to Aden this morning following a friendly visit to the GDR which lasted several days. During the visit, the delegation learned about the experience of the German comrades in party construction. This visit comes within the framework of the exchanged visits between the YSP and the United German Socialist Party with the aim of exchanging expertise and opinions. The delegation included Brother 'Uthman 'Abd al-Jabbar, deputy industry minister.

CHAIRMAN RECEIVES ALGERIAN INDUSTRY MINISTER

GF311333 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, YSP Central Committee secretary general, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received in his office at the Secretariat of the Central Committee at noon today Brother Said Ait-Messaoudene, member of the Central Committee of the Algerian National Liberation Front and minister of light industry, who delivered a verbal message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. A number of issues related to the development of bilateral relations were discussed during the meeting. Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed his appreciation for the development and growth of cooperation relations between the PDRY and Algeria in all fields.

PRESIDENT MUBARAK LEAVES FOR BEIJING 31 MAR

NC312008 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak lest Cairo for Beijing tonight on the first leg of a tour during which he will visit the PRC, DPRK, Japan, and Indonesia.

The president was seen off by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, the ministers, and senior statesmen.

MAY ON EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS WITH USSR

PM311627 Cairo MAY in Arabic 27 Mar 83 p 1

[Unattributed report: "New Ambassador to Soviet Union To Be Appointed"]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry is studying the question of an exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and the Soviet Union in the light of various reports. This is expected to take place very shortly. Egypt will find it necessary to appoint a new ambassador to the Soviet Union.

INTERVIEW WITH BUTRUS GHALI BY AL-HAWADITH

PM311551 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 1 Apr 83 pp 26-28

[Interview with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali by Nash'at at-Taghlabi in Cairo -- date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: When Egypt submitted its draft resolution urging Libya's expulsion from the Nonaligned Movement, did it expect the movement members to approve it?

Ghali: No, the draft resolution was merely a tactical diplomatic move to counter the Libyan attempts to oust Egypt. We just wanted to emphasize that the request was worthless since we too could request the expulsion of Libya. We also meant to show public opinion to what extent the Libyan request lacked seriousness.

AL-HAWADITH: Can we say that the Libyan-Sudanese border crisis is over?

Ghali: It is not a border crisis. There was Libyan interference in Sudan's domestic affairs, similar to Libya's interference in Qafsah, Tunisia, and in Algeria, Central Africa, Uganda, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Nigeria.

AL-HAWADITH: I mean: Have its effects ended or are they still there?

Ghali: We hope they are over, but precedents indicate the continuation of Libyan policy in Africa.

AL-HAWADITH: How do you explain the arrival of Libyan envoys in Cairo in an attempt to restore relations with Egypt?

Ghali: The arrival of the envoys was not for the purpose of restoring relations. It was meant to conceal Libya's premediated moves. Libya prepares for a coup in Sudan, so it sends an envoy to deceive and reassure the parties concerned while intervention is taking place or a coup being staged. In other words, to disguise a trap I set for you I pay you a visit to assure you of my friendship.

AL-HAWADITH: Am I correct in assuming that the meeting held during the Nonaligned Summit Conference rose above the level of diplomatic relations?

Ghali: There is no doubt about it. After all, a diplomatic representative is a representative of the head of state.

So when contact is established between two heads of state there is no need for anyone to represent them. The contacts held between President Mubarak and King Husayn, the Lebanese president, the amir of Qatar, the amir of Kuwait, the Iraqi leaders, and the Saudi foreign minister were undoubtedly more important than diplomatic relations between Egypt and these states. Futhermore, all these states have diplomatic missions [in Egypt].

AL-HAWADITH: Why then are relations still severed?

Ghali: Perhaps these Arab states do not wish to rush the restoration of these symoblic relations for one reason or another. Egypt takes into consideration the circumstances of each state. At any rate, so long as relations are maintained through the diplomatic missions, having an ambassador is not important. The presence of a charge d'affaires or an ambassador without the title of ambassador is sufficient. We do not insist on formalities.

AL-HAWADITH: Some foreign ministers in the Arab Gulf states maintain that the Baghdad summit resolution breaking off relations can only be nullified by another summit resolution.

Ghali: If this is their interpretation, we pursue a flexible policy in that we do not ask any Arab country to do wnat it cannot do for special reasons. What is important is that relations do exist.

AL-HAWADITH: Regarding the dialogue between Egypt and the PLO, has the PNC's position -- which was criticized by Egypt -- affected this dialogue and will it leade to a suspension of the dialogue between the two sides, or will the dialogue continue?

Ghali: We hope the dialogue will continue. It has always been Egypt's policy to help the Palestinian people and defend their rights.

AL-HAWADITH: When do you expect the Tabah problem to end?

Ghali: We must not exaggerate the problem because the disputed area does not exceed 1,200 square meters. Naturally, this territory has a symbolic significance, and we insist on Egyptian territorial integrity. Israel, for political reasons of its own, will try to procrastinate because it uses Tabah as an excuse.

AL-HAWADITH: In the light of the present circumstances in Israel, do you expect King Husayn to agree to join the peace negotiations?

Ghali: We hope that agreement can be reached between the PLO and the Jordanian Government to allow negotiations to begin. We believe that if the negotiations do not proceed now, and if we do not exploit the U.S. Government's willingness to play a part, within the context of the Reagan initiative, then, with the initiation of the U.S. election campaign, the issue might be postponed until 1985. The number of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza would increase during this period, and it would then be difficult to reactivate the issues. That is why it is important, in our opinion, to maintain the momentum and keep the issue under the spotlight so that it is not shelved yet again. This calls for more diplomatic efforts. What is desired is a Jordanian-Palestinian move within the framework of the Reagan initiative despite its negative aspects. Movement in itself constitutes positive action capable of maintaining the dynamics of negotiation and dialogue and preserving international interest in the Palestinian cause.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that movement could be useful under the present circumstances of Israeli rejection?

Ghali: Such movement, if it occurs, might weaken the rejection front in Israel and even disrupt it, giving way to a new front which would agree to negotiate; and then again it might not. At least we could then say that we had been active.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you not believe that the United States was content with just declaring its initiative and that when it was time to implement it some kind of negativism set in, especially in relation to Israel?

Ghali: I agree that there is much negativism in the U.S. attitude, but we must honestly ask: Was this negativism not the result of Arab negativism? The United States made an initiative. It was rejected by Israel and it was rejected to some extent by the Arabs. So, how can the United States move in the face of a double rejection?

AL-HAWADITH: The Arab side did not reject the positive aspects of the initiative.

Ghali: Actually it did not even accept the positive aspects on 1 September. It only did so in the past few weeks. This interim period from September to March was to a large extent the cause of the U.S. negativism. Had the Arab states taken the initiative, made a move and requested a similar move from the United States, things would have been different.

AL-HAWADITH: What do you think about a shift from the initiatives available at present to an international conference?

Ghali: Egyptian diplomacy is flexible and it welcomes any method of diplomatic action provided it is approved by all the parties concerned. An international conference requires the approval of Israel, which is an important party, unfortunately. What is the use of holding an international conference if the side occupying the territory refuses to attend it? If Israel, the United States, and the Soviet Union all agreed to participate, Egypt would undoubtedly welcome such a conference, but it would be negative approach to ignore the present initiatives in favor of future initiative with as yet unclear dimensions.

AL-HAWADITH: Will Egypt and the Soviet Union exchange ambassadors in the near future?

Ghali: We hope for an improvement in Egypt's relations with the Soviet Union within the context of the policy of nonalignment. I hasten to add: We have a diplomatic mission in Moscow and the Soviet Union has a diplomatic mission in Cairo. There are also cultural and trade relations between the two states, and there are Soviet experts working in Egyptian plants. Furthermore, an improvement in Egyptian-Soviet relations is one of the objectives of Egyptian diplomacy.

AL-HAWADITH: So the improvement of relations is still a hope.

Ghali: In fact the relations are based on general principles, and one of the principles to which Egypt adheres is nonalignment. This policy calls for good relations with both giants.

SOUTH AFRICAN AGGRESSION ON LESOTHO CONDEMNED

NC301421 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA) -- A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Arab Republic of Egypt has stated that Egypt is following with deep concern the savage attacks which South Africa has been launching against the state of Lesotho since last Friday. These attacks, he said, are considered a part of a series of recurring attacks which the racist regime in Pretoria is continuously launching against the neighboring African states with the object of stirring disturbances and threatening their independence in implementation of its imperialist plan in the entire area of southern Africa.

The spokesman added: When urging the international society to firmly resist this imperialist and contentious policy of the regime in South Africa, Egypt declares its strong denunciation of this aggression and that it, government and people, stands alongside the government and fraternal people of Lesotho and fully supports them in their brave resistance of this treacherous aggression.

EXPULSION OF GREEK ORTHODOX BISHOPS CANCELED

NC311924 Paris AFP in English 1914 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 31 (AFP) -- Egyptian authorities have cancelled the expulsion of five Greek bishops which Greek Orthodox Patriarch Alexander Nicolas VI had requested, a diplomatic source said here today.

Greek Ambassador in Egypt Antonis Nomikos yesterday handed a letter to presidential aide Usamah al-Baz in which the patriarch withdrew his request and said he hoped his dispute with the five bishops could be settled through church channels.

According to unconfirmed reports, the patriarch and his bishops were in conflict over the management of church funds. Sources here said the patriarch would bring up the dispute at a church council in July.

The five bishops, leaders of Egypt's Greek Orthodox community of between 10,000 and 15,000 members, were to be expelled on March 26 but were given permission to stay until April 5.

Father Nicolas is presently in the Soviet Union where he is undergoing eye treatment. He is expected to be in Egypt in the second half of April.

163 DEFENDANTS IN AL-JIHAD CASE RELEASED

NC010732 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA) -- Counselor Raja' al-'Arabi, the attorney general for the Supreme State Security Prosecution in Egypt, has issued a decision releasing 163 defendants in the religious organizations case.

According to the decision, only 300 defendants of the Al-Jihad organization are still being held and are currently being tried by the State Security Court on the charge of attempting to topple the regime.

MUBARAK ARRIVES IN BEIJING ON FAR EAST TOUR

For Chinese coverage of the visit by President Husni Mubarak to the People's Republic of China, see the 1 April issue of the China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

IRANIAN BATTLE LOSSES REPORTED 29-31 MARCH

Communique No 1,044

JN301638 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Mar (INA) -- The Iraqi Armed Forces have killed three Iranians, two in the area east of Basra and the third in the central sector. They also destroyed various military equipment.

This was contained in military communique No 1,044 issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,044 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The results of our valiant Armed Forces activities against the arrogant enemy in the operational sectors last night and today are as follows:

1. Our units struck at enemy troop concentration opposite their positions in the central sector of the battlefield with their weapons, killing one, wounding many, and destroying two vehicles carrying personnel.

2. Two were killed and one vehicle was destroyed in the area east of Basra.

3. Two vehicles were destroyed and their occupants killed in the Haysan operational sector.

4. One 106-mm gun was destroyed in the northern sector of the battlefield.

5. The criminal Khomeyniite enemy today shelled Mandali and its subrubs, wounding one civilian and damaging two houses.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 March 1983

Communique No 1,045

JN311730 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,045 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 31 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In order to preserve Iraq's security and sovereignty, our brave Armed Forces are continuing their activities at the various sectors of the front against the racist aggressors. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Using various weapons, one of our combat patrol units, supported by intense artillery fire, clashes with an enemy force in front of the positions of one of our forward units in the Maysan sector last night. As a result, the enemy suffered 23 soldiers dead and several others wounded. Three enemy soldiers were also killed, and one hardware stockpile and one observation post were destroyed in the same sector.

2. One infantry position was destroyed, killing all those in it, and one observation post was destroyed in the central sector of the front.

3. The artillery of the mean Iranian regime today shelled Basra, Khanaqin, Mandali, and Zurbatiyah injuring two women, destroying a house, and severely damaging an elementary school in Khanaqin.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 31 March 1983

RAMADAN EXPECTS NO SURPRISES ON FRONT

JN311855 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Mar (INA) -- Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's National Command, has affirmed that the reality of the Iraqi Armed Forces is better now than at the start of the war. Ramadan said that we have no worries regarding any strategic surprises along the whole front with Iran.

The party's National Command member was speaking in a lecture he delivered yesterday evening on the occasion of the Arab Student Week which is being celebrated here. Tama Yasin Ramadan noted the development of the Iraqi Armed Forces' military capabilities. He said that Iraq is preparing itself and working for a long war at all levels and at the same time it is responding positively with all efforts aimed at ending the war.

BA'TH PARTY DELEGATION RETURNS FROM MOROCCO

JN300939 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Mar (INA) -- Muhammad Hafzah, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, and the accompanying party delegation returned here last night from Morocco where he attended the third national congress meetings of the Moroccan Party of Progress and Socialism.

In a statement to INA, Hamzah said that the delegation held a number of meetings at Political Bureau level with the following Moroccan parties. The Independence Party, National Union of Popular Forces, Socialist Union of Popular Forces, and Party of Progress and Socialism. During the meetings discussions took place on bilateral relations between those parties and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the strong ties between Iraq and fraternal Morocco.

He added that those parties expressed their stand in support of our just war to defend the eastern flank of the Arab homeland against the fanatic Iranian regime. Hamzah pointed out that he held a working meeting with newly elected Political Bureau Secretary General 'Ali Ya'tah during which they exchanged viewpoints on the special relations between the two parties as well as on the Arab and international situation.

MINISTERS MEET WITH GDR'S ALBRECHT 30 MAR

JN301535 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Mar (INA) -- Housing and Reconstruction Minister Muhammad Fadil Husayn received here today Dr Dieter Albrecht, deputy chairman of the GDR State Planning Commission, and his accompanying delegation. They discussed the promotion of cooperation between the two friendly countries in all spheres in the interest of their peoples.

Light Industries Minister Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah also discussed with Albrecht the practical steps to strengthen cooperation between the two countries' light industries sectors.

REPORTAGE ON YASIR 'ARAFAT'S VISIT TO AMMAN

Arrives, Issues Statement

JN311929 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman via Ar-Ramtha this afternoon on a visit of several days to Jordan, during which he will hold talks with his Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials. Upon his arrival at Ar-Ramtha border point, 'Arafat made the following press statement:

[Begin recording] There is no doubt that I am visiting Jordan at a time when the Arab nation and our Palestinian people's cause are passing through an important and critical stage. The visit also comes in light of the current changes and developments on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels, particularly after the Arab seven-member committee has completed its first mission by visiting the UN Security Council's permanent member states, the latest of which was its visit to London under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Husayn, after having overcome the transient crisis of the PLO's representation in the committee.

Before this seven-member committee convenes on the level of the foreign ministers or the summit, we will meet so that we, particularly the Jordanians and Palestinians, can discuss the details of the joint stand, proceeding from this distinguished, special relationship to which our PNC referred with all pride and love when it said that our relationship with Jordan is a special, distinguished one and that future relations between us are those of a confederal union. [end recording]

'Arafat is accompanied on this visit by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and Hamid Abu Sittah, head of occupied homeland affairs.

'Arafat was welcomed at Ar-Ramtha border point by Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah. Occupied Land Affairs Minister Hasan Ibrahim, the Irbid governnor and police chief, the Ar-Ramtha district officer, and some National Consultative Council members. He was also welcomed by Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces; Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani; 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, PLO Executive Committee members; the PLO Amman office director; the adviser of the commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces in Jordan; the Palestine Liberation Army's Badr forces commander; the director of the PLO Executive Committee chairman's office; and some PLO officials.

The Jordanian-Palestinian joint committe , which stemmed from the higher committee, will hold a meeting in Amman this evening. Talks will be resumed during this meeting on the Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the joint movement in the next stage.

Joint Committee Meets

JN010612 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] The Jordanian and Palestinian sides -- the members of the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee -- held a round of talks last night to review Jordanian-Palestinian relations and joint moves within the Arab action in order to reach common ground with regard to projected issues in the future phase.

Attending the talks for Jordan were Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Occupied Land Affairs Minister Hasan Ibrahim, Foreign Minister Harwan al-Gasim, Minister of Transport 'Ali as-Suhayamt, and Interior Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat. On the Palestinian side, the talks were attended by PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi, PLO Executive Committee members Hamid Abu Sittah, Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, and 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad.

'Arafat Chairs Meeting

JN011238 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] The Palestinian side to the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee held a meeting at the PLO office this morning under the chairmanship of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. A comprehensive review and assessment were made of the results of yesterday's meeting with the Jordanians on the higher committee, which was held in the guest palace. The Palestinian side also prepared for tomorrow's meeting which is aimed at continuing the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue on the political movement and at defining the nature of the future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

The conferees also studied the developments of the occupied territory and the arbitrary Israeli actions on Land Day, in addition to the effects and results of the occupation authorities' mass poisoning in the Janin areas and the rest of the occupied lands. They also discussed the continuing siege on the Al-Jalazun and Al-Am'ari camps and the township of Az-Zahiriyah.

The meeting was attended by Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian forces; Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; and PLO Executive Committee members Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, Hamid Abu Sittah, Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani, and Brigader General 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya.

Monte Carlo on Visit

JN010638 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0515 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman yesterday following a lengthy tour, the last leg of which was Damascus. 'Arafat's talks with King Husayn are expected to take place today since their meeting, which was supposed to have taken place yesterday, was postponed until today because the Jordanian king had a prior engagement with his guest Sultan Qabus of Oman.

A ranking Palestinian source told AFP that the postponement of the Husayn-'Arafat meeting until today should, under no circumstances, be understood as a negative gesture. He added that Abu 'Ammar will stay in Amman until Sunday, at the very least.

In another development, the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee met at the guest palace in Amman yesterday. The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by the ministers of information and occupied land affairs, and on the Palestinian side by Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces; Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and four PLO Executive Committee members. The Jordanian and Palestinian sides, in their statements to newsmen, gave no indication of what they thought would be the outcome of King Husayn and 'Arafat's talks. Meanwhile, several Jordanian and Palestinian sources have affirmed that the PLO will not give its approval, at least for the time being, of the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to participate in the possible negoitations on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

A member of the Palestinian delegation in Amman told the AFP correspondent that no one should expect the Jordanian-Palestinian talks to produce miracles.

Husayn Meeting Postponed

JN011111 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] The talks between King Husayn and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will commence tomorrow and not today, as was previously announced. This was disclosed by knowledgeable sources in the Jordanian capital, who added that the cause for the postponement was due to King Husayn's engagement with his guest Sultan Qabus. The same sources added that Yasir 'Arafat will meet with Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran this evening as scheduled.

More on Postponement

BK010222 Hong Kong AFP in English 0203 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] Amman, April 1 (AFP) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) will not agree, at least immediately, to forming a joint Jordan-Palestinian delegation to future negotiations on the Middle East, according to several sources here.

As PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat arrived here Thursday for a twice-postproned meeting with King Husayn, both Palestinian and Jordanian sources were very cautious about predicting the outcome of their talks.

King Husayn said he could not meet Mr 'Arafat on Thursday night, as he was occupied with another guest, Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman, who is here on a 48-hour private visit.

A Palestinian official declined to see the delay as a "negative element," pointing out that Mr 'Arafat will be in Amman "at least until Sunday."

After a meeting of the joint committee Thursday a member of the Palestinian delegation said: "We mustn't expect a miracle."

SAWT ASH-SHA'B Command

JN011008 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 Apr 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline, "The Jordanian-Palestinian Talks, Definition of Objective and Methods," SAWT ASH-SHA'B says: At the end of the last round of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, the two sides jointly declared that they share everything through thick and thin. The talks included a visualization of the future unity of relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian people and of their integrated roles in any Arab or international efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

Based on past results and convictions, the two sides should move to define the objective regarding future moves, and then agree on the content of this objective frankly and clearly, because defining the objective and agreeing on it would facilitate the move toward achieving the methods that will attain this objective.

The new round of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks comes immediately after the conclusion of an important stage through which wide-scale Arab moves have been initiated on the Arab and international arenas and in which Jordan and the PLO participated. Consequently, this will enable the talks to assess the Arab moves and their results during this stage -- an advantage that will define the objective and methods of the move in the next stage.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B says: In light of the continuing Israeli pressures on our kinfolk in the occupied homeland, and the Israeli insistence on changing the occupation into a permanent Israeli presence in the West Bank and Gaza, the objectives, which we aspire to achieve through the Arab moves, should be linked with the time factor. The rapid demographic and settlements changes are basically aimed at foiling any Arab or international move to save the West Bank and Gaza and establish an independent Palestinian state or entity on the occupied territory.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B adds: Waiting for the resolutions, which could be implemented into a program for the salvation of the territory, shrinks everyday under the pressure of the Judaization and settlements. Israel seems to be concerned with a third Palestinian exodus that would render the Palestinians a minority in their homeland. We present these facts to the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian committee, because these facts cannot be ignored, and less important facts must not be the main focus.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: The uprising that took place in the occupied homeland on Land Day represents the size of the dangers that are threatening the occupied homeland and people and calls on us to have the right priorities. The salvation of the territory and kinfolk is the top priority. If the decisions ignore the sufferings of the occupied homeland and the frustrations of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, we will find ourselves facing a new situation during which the territory and the rights will be wasted, while we wait.

'ARAFAT REPORTEDLY MET WITH U.S. ENVOY

JN310935 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 31 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Arab sources in Rabat have asserted that a high-ranking U.S. envoy held talks with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat during the past few days. The talks dealt with the latest developments on the Middle East issue and with the official PLO position on the Reagan peace plan. The talks also dealt with the possibility of reconciliating the Reagan initiative, the Arab peace plan, and the organization's stand on the peace process in the region. The Arab sources stated that the U.S. envoy received a written response from Yasir 'Arafat on the issues that were discussed.

HUSAYN, QABUS BRIEFED ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS 30 MAR

JN310738 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and his guest, His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, and the accompanying delegation, were briefed last night by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan on Israeli measures on settlements and Judaization in the occupied Arab territories. Repressive measures against the Arab citizens forcing them to emigrate in order to control the Arab territories were also discussed.

His Highness Prince Hasan reviewed the Israeli assaults against the holy shrines in Jerusalem to obliterate the Arab and religious character of the holy city. The crown prince also gave a briefing on the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilization Research and the Royal Scientific Society.

Present at the meeting were the prime minister, the court minister, and the directors of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilization Research and the Royal Scientific Society.

VOH ON AGREEMENT ON JOINT PATROLS WITH ISRAEL

NC010649 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in English 0550 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] Lebanon has agreed to let Israeli soldiers patrol the border area with Lebanese forces and stay overnight in Lebanese territory. This was worked out in negotiations yesterday. The entry and exit of Israeli forces would not be limited.

This is reported to be the most important progress in the negotiations between the two countries so far. An Israeli official said: The only problem to be resolved now is the status of Major Sa'd Haddad, the commander of the Free Lebanese forces.

Beirut Cites Israeli Report

NC011136 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] Israel has denied President Reagan's statement that no progress has been achieved in the Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli negotiations. Quoting Israeli political sources, Israel radio has reported that agreement was reached in Qiryat Shemona yesterday to run joint patrols within the context of observation teams.

Israeli circles were surprised by President Reagan's decision to impose a new ban on the delivery of F-16 aircraft to Israel because it has not withdrawn from Lebanon. These circles said that the U.S. President's statement caused anger and surprise.

PRESIDENT TO U.S. GROUP ON 'DICTATED' PEACE

NC311418 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Report by correspondent Joe Sa'adah from Republican Palace]

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil today affirmed that Lebanon rejects a fait accompli peace and rejects a dictated peace at any price. President al-Jumayyil was addressing a delegation from the Defense Committee [Armed Services Committee] of the U.S. House of Representatives, led by Patricia Schroeder and including several Americans of Lebanese origin.

Speaking in English, President al-Jumayyil stressed to the U.S. delegation that the presence of the U.S. forces in Lebanon within the framework of the multinational force is a humanitarian mission, not a purely military one because the Lebanese people, who withstood all challenges and maintained its democratic structure, are eager to achieve their freedom, consolidate their democracy, and restore the state's sovereignty over all Lebanese territory.

President al-Jumayyil added that the presence of the U.S. forces in Lebanon helps the Lebanese people to restore their human liberties and the dignity of their entity.

President al-Jumayyil briefed the U.S. House of Representatives delegation on the atmosphere of the negotiations, outlining the Lebanese stance, and the questions pending in the negotiations with Israel. President al-Jumayyil emphasized that Lebanon wants a real peace for itself and for the whole area, but in return Lebanon cannot accept a peace imposed on it at any price. Therefore, Lebanon is not soft in the negotiations concerning proposals that are incompatible with its sovereignty and territorial integrity and safety.

During the meeting, the leader of the U.S. delegation, Patricia Schroeder, presented to President al-Jumayyil a token gift -- Thomas Jefferson's cup. Jefferson was the well-known American thinker who founded the principles of democracy and who was a U.S. president. Schroeder told President al-Jumayyil: We regard you, Mr President, as the Thomas Jefferson of the new Lebanon.

Schroeder stressed after the meeting that action will be taken in the Congress to obtain the aid Lebanon requires for rebuilding itself and that the Americans will persist in their work until the goals sought by everybody are achieved. She said: We will not abandon Lebanon but will continue to work until the governments concerned and everybody are certain that Lebanon is safe.

At 1230 President al-Jumayyil appriased the current situation with the prime minister.

RIYADH GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY SEEKING 'MINI-SUMMIT'

NC301526 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Lebanon and Israel have disagreed on everything but have agreed on emphasizing that U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib's mission has returned to squre one. Habib has arrived in occupied Jerusalem from Beirut en route to Washington. After intensive meetings with Lebanese officials, Habib showed much pessimism about the future of his mission.

An official Lebanese source today affirmed that the crisis reached in Habib's mission confronts Lebanon with several possibilities, particularly the possibility of reshuffling the papers to anticipate the dangers of the time factor, which Lebanon regards as tantamount to a U.S. setback following a number of promises and pledges made on more than one occasion and by more than one person.

The source said that the message the foreign minister gave to Habib contains an explicit Lebanese position regarding the U.S. endeavors.

Meanwhile, other sources said that they propose that Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim make a quick visit to Washington to brief the officials on the situation and to explain the fears of losing the wager on the Americans. The sources think it likely that Minister Salim will visit the United States at the beginning of the coming week.

According to as yet unconfirmed press information, intensive contacts are under way among Beirut, Damascus, Riyadh, Amman, and the PLO for consultation on the situation in the wake of the complications reached in the negotiations as a result of the Israeli intransigence on security arrangements in southern Lebanon.

The information quotes a government source as having said that the Riyadh government is seeking to convene a mini-summit under the auspices of Saudi King Fahd to be attended by President al-Jumayyil, Syrian President al-Asad, King Husayn, and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to coordinate their stands, review the current phase, and attempt to agree on a plan that will prevent the work for resolving the Lebanese crisis from clashing with the work to find opportunities to resolve the Palestinian issue.

PLENARY SESSION ENDS; SPOKESMAN VIEWS TALKS

NC311318 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1125 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Interview with official spokesman for Lebanese delegation to tripartite talks Dr Dawud as-Sayigh in Qiryat Shemona by unidentified member of Lebanese Information Ministry delegation -- live]

[Text] The general and plenary session of the negotiations ended about 2 minutes ago. The official spokesman of the Lebanese delegation, Dr Dawud as-Sayigh, will now speak to us about the atmosphere of the negotiations.

[As-Sayigh] The plenary session ended now to be resumed after lunch. It is known that the plenary session dealt today with the question of the security arrangements. It is known that this subject constitutes one of the basic obstacles in the negotiations. Most points relating to the security arrangements were raised today. The discussion took place with the participation of the heads of the delegations and the military members of the three delegations. The discussion was serious and dealt with most of the details. It can be said that merely confronting these thorny questions constitutes perhaps a readiness to overcoming them and a prelude to solving them. The meetings will be resumed to study the same subjects in the afternoon.

[Question] Dr as-Sayigh, the official Israeli spokesman made a statement regarding the Lebanese Army. What is your reply to this statement?

[Answer] The head of the Lebanese delegation, Dr Fattal, replied and said that the Lebanese Army is strong and will be even stronger if an agreement is reached and if it is allowed to exercise all its powers.

[Question] Shall we predict positive results to the listeners or are there negative things?

[Answer] We cannot now predict and speak about positive matters. All that can be said is that the discussions are serious and in depth and are dealing with a most important question which, as I said, constitutes one of the main difficulties in the negotiations, namely the question of security, that is, the security with respect to Israel and the security arrangements with respect to us. We perceive this from the angle of preserving the principle of Lebanese sovereignty.

Progress in Talks

NC311803 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Today's round of negotiations, which was held in two stages -- in the morning and in the afternoon -- was dedicated to the subject of security arrangements. After the meetings, the Lebanese official spokesman, Dr Dawud as-Sayigh, said: One plenary meeting was held this morning and resumed in the afternoon. Security arrangements were the only item on the agenda so as to overcome the obstacles in the security issue. This is the most important point of disagreement between Israel and Lebanon. The negotiators entered into many and meticulous details and certain progress was made in the negotiations but some differences in views persisted because Lebanon is concerned for its sovereignty, which is basic in Lebanon's stand.

Israeli spokesman Avi Pazner emphasized that tangible progress was made in today's negotiations.

He expressed hope that the negotiations will reach an important phase in the near future. He added that two meetings will be held next week -- one in Khaldah and the other in Qiryat Shemona. The dates will be anounced at the beginning of next week.

Therefore, on the basis of the statements made by the Lebanese and Israeli spokesmen, progress has been achieved in the domain of security arrangements which are considered the main problem in the negotiations. The security negotiations are expected to dominate the two rounds of talks which will be held next week.

Today's talks were earnest and the heads of delegations and military personnel from Lebanon, the United States, and Israel participated in them.

SOLDATOV DENIES PRESENCE OF SOVIET EXPERTS

NC311815 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim today met separately with Soviet ambassador in Beirut Aleksandr Soldatov and the EC ambassadors.

Answering a question, the Soviet ambassador denied the presence of any Soviet experts in Lebanon. In answer to another question, the Soviet ambassador emphasized the Soviet Government's statement which was issued yesterday warning Israel against committing a [word indistinct] aggression.

AFP: PRESIDENT DISSOLVES ARAB DETERRENT FORCE

NC311809 Paris AFP in English 1758 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Beirut, March 31 (AFP) -- President Amin al-Jumayyil has decided to dissolve the command of the Syrian-led Arab Deterrent Force (ADF), an informed source said here.

The decision, effective from today, is of an essentially technical nature and will have no consequences on the military level. Nor is the windup of the command accompanied by an official Lebanese demand for withdrawal of the Syrian troops stationed in the Al-Biqa' plain and northern Lebanon.

The ADF has 30,000 troops. The Syrian soldiers, who first entered Lebanon early in 1976 during the first stage of the Lebanese war, subsequently received a mandate from the Arab League to keep the peace in Lebanon.

The ADF was placed under the supreme command of the Lebanese president, but the Arab League renewed its mandate every six months.

Other ADF Arab contingents like the Saudis and the Libyans progressively left Lebanon, until only Syrian troops remained on Lebanese soil.

Last July, while Beirut was under attack, the Arab League did not renew the ADF mandate, which had expired. Syrian troops however remained in Lebanon, Syria having said that the departure of its forces depended on Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

The dissolution of the ADF command will have the basic practical effect of restoring to Lebanon the buildings that were provided for the ADF.

HADDAD: NO LONGER RESPONSIBLE FOR UNIFIL SAFETY

NC010820 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] Free Lebanon commander Major Haddad has issued the following:

1. The situation: Following the Israeli Defense Forces' Peace for Galilee operation, the UNIFIL were left with no other task than to harass and act against the residents of free Lebanon -- soldiers and civilians -- trying in various ways to provoke us and to drag us into a premeditated and preconceived battle with them. Not being content with harassing the movement of our forces, they also are harassing villagers moving to and from their villages. Furthermore, through their actions, they also are undermining public morals. In addition to their repeated molesting of women, they spend most of the day walking half naked in front of women either to seduce them or to attract men for sodomy.

About 4 months ago, the Fijians committed an abominable, cold-blooded murder against the sons of Jwayya village; no punitive measures were taken against them. Lebanese justice also has done nothing.

On 30 March, at about 1800, while Dr Jihad Qanus, from Yarun village, was driving with his wife through the 'Ayn B'al roadblock, which was manned by the Fijians, he was stopped at the roadblock. The doctor willingly got out of his vehicle to be searched. In the meantime, he saw one of the soldiers at the roadblock trying to rape his wife before his eyes. When the doctor began to shout, trying to save his wife, one of the Fijian soldiers at the roadblock shot him in the leg. When he didn't stop shouting, the same soldier shot him in the head, killing him. The body of the murdered doctor remained on the road for about 3 hours, without any of the Fijian soldiers paying any attention to him, before Lebanese gendarmerie personnel arrived at the scene and took the body away.

The decision: In view of this and in view of the savage and hostile actions of UNIFIL against the residents of Free Lebanon, we announce to everyone that henceforth we will not be responsible for the safety of any member of UNIFIL nor of their prosperity. Citizens will be free to take action to protect themselves and to safeguard their dignity, which is being violated by these savage foreigners in the name of the United Nations.

2. We announce to all those who want to join the free Lebanon army that it has been decided to conduct medical examinations on Tuesday of every week, instead of Monday, at Khayrallah Salamah Barracks in Marj 'Uyun.

FRENCH ENVOY ON SALIM REQUEST TO EC COUNTRIES

NC311330 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim today met with EC ambassadors accredited to Lebanon.

After the meeting, French Ambassador Paul Marc Henry said Minister Salim had briefed them on the Lebanese stand regarding the present situation in the negotiations.

Ambassador Henry added that Minister Salim particularly stressed that Lebanon has presented whatever proposals it can and that the other side must respond. Lebanon, Salim added, has reached a point which it cannot exceed after having proved its desire for peace and understanding.

The French ambassador said the foreign minister asked the European diplomats to inform their respective governments of the situation in Lebanon and to seek with the U.S. Government and other governments concerned support for the Lebanese stand. He said: We support Lebanon in its current efforts to reach a conclusion of the negotiations for safeguarding Lebanese sovereignty.

The foreign minister is to meet this Tuesday with the heads of Arab diplomatic missions accredited to Lebanon to brief them on the phase reached in the negotiations with Israel and to consult with them concerning the situation.

PIERRE AL-JUMAYYIL DISCUSSES FRONT MEETING

NC301906 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] During its periodic meeting today, the Lebanese Front reviewed various issues, particularly the progress of the current negotiations for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon.

Replying to journalists' questions after the meeting, [Phalangist Party leader] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said the committees concerned have made considerable progress in this field. He said despite all the blowing hot and cold, there is still hope that the desired results will be achieved. He said: We made an important stride when we were able to separate the Lebanese crisis from the area's crisis. What happened recently could have been the result of some parties entering the sphere leading to negotiations, particularly Jordan.

The Phalangist leader added: In my case, we hope to surmount this phase just as we have surmounted the major phases. Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil then expressed support for every Lebanese move in the regional and international fields as this will contribute to and explain our cause to the world.

Replying to another question, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said 90 percent of the Lebanese people want the Lebanon on which we have agreed -- the Lebanon of the formula and coexistence and a free and independent Lebanon which is neither a protectorate nor a colony. He said: Throughout history, our sovereignty has never been violated as it is today. International Communism despoiled Lebanon and was followed in doing so by the Palestinians, the Syrians, and the Israelis. Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil then called for a unified Lebanese stand because if the Lebanese people do not believe in their right and in their homeland, it would be futile to ask those abroad to recreate Lebanon. The Lebanese must rely on themselves first and then cooperate with whomever they want in the world to preserve their existence, the Phalangist leader concluded.

SALIM ON TALKS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON

PM280821 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 25 Mar 83 pp 21, 22

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Foreign and Expatriate Affairs Minister Dr Elie Salim by Raghidah Durgham in New York -- date not given]

[Text] I contacted Dr Elie Salim, head of the Lebanese delegation to Washington, and asked him about the reported improvement in the general atmosphere and the steps which led to it. His reply was: I do not know that the atmosphere has really improved, but when the Israeli delegation came to Washington it brought with it very tough conditions. We rejected those conditions asserting that we could not discuss them. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz wanted to hear from us directly about the true situation in Lebanon, about the final red lines, whether Lebanon would be able to control its territory, and whether the Lebanese Army was ready and able to maintain security and ensure stability, especially in southern Lebanon. Shultz told us that if we could not convince him personally of our capabilities he would not be able to persuade Israel to abandon the tough conditions it laid down regarding security arrangements.

I believe that in the hours we spent with Secretary Shultz -- I personally spent 3 hours with him over three meetings -- we managed to convince the Americans of our sincerity and our determination to build a strong Lebanese State and to build a Lebanese Army capable of solely shouldering the security responsibilities in Lebanon, that Lebanon will not allow any force, other than the legitimate force, to be deployed on its territory, and that there is no need for Israel to keep any armies of posts in Lebanon to ensure its security.

AL-HAWADITH: What are the main Israeli conditions which you described as tough?

Salim: The negotiations are still in progress. The next round begins on Sunday. This stage is very crucial and we do not want to discuss the details of the Israeli terms in public now, nor do we wish to dwell on the Lebanese terms in detail. We do not want to do anything that might harm Lebanon's supreme national interests. At this stage the information must remain subject to the higher policy. It is not in our interest to discuss details in the pass now.

AL-HAWADITH: In the wake of your visit to Washington, do you find the Israelis more willing to cooperate and respond to U.S. proposals?

Salim: I believe that in the extensive talks held between Lebanon and the United States -- incidentally, this is the first time in history that a Lebanese foreign minister and his aides spend long hours with the U.S. secretary of state discussing Lebanon in particular -- we convinced Secretary Shultz and President Reagan of the Lebanese position. We convinced them that there are things we can do and things we cannot do, and that there are things we would never do even if we could. They heard these words from us -- words expressed strongly, clearly, and rationally. There was no enthusiasm, emotions, or threats. It was clear that Lebanon's interests were important as such. They understand Lebanon's interests to the extent that now they have a Lebanese sense.

As regards the Israeli side, Shultz, having spent all these hours discussing details with us, met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir and put the Lebanese position to him very strongly. As a result of Shultz's explanations to Shamir we noticed in the subsequent meetings that there was some flexibility -- not complete flexibility -- on the part of Israel. This flexibility opens the way for U.S. envoy Philip Habib and his assistant, Draper, to talk to Israel. We will see how this flexibility could be developed and increased to enable us to arrive at conclusions acceptable to Lebanon.

AL-HAWADITH: According to senior U.S. officials there are new U.S. ideas. As an example they mention the U.S. willingness to train a Lebanese Army unit in combating terrorism and infiltration.

Salim: Israel says that for the next 3 years it cannot trust the Lebanese Army to shoulder the responsibilities which Israel considers necessary for its security. We, for our part, have given the Americans examples of the Lebanese Army's ability to maintain security, as it is at present doing in greater Beirut. We also cited other examples regarding the Army's strong armament, compulsory conscription which we intend to enforce shortly, and the types of weaoons we purchase. Of course, the Lebanese Government is also willing to ask the United States, France, and other friendly states to help Lebanon strengthen its Army, Internal Security Forces, police forces, and frontier guards. All these things are important to us. The Americans are now expanding on these Lebanese ideas in their attempt to convince Israel that the Lebanese Army will be well trained and will have good equipment, and that the Americans are generally willing to help Lebanon train and prepare its Army.

AL-HAWADITH: Are they willing to increase the number of their troops within, or even outside, the framework of the multinational force?

Salim: You know that we did, previously, ask the United States to increase the number of the multinational force, but we did not discuss the question of the multinational force during this visit. We did not raise this issue because the Americans had decided in principle that when a need for increasing the multinational force arose they would consider the matter in a positive spirit.

AL-HAWADITH: Will the area of the multinational force's deployment be extended?

Salim: This is expected with the withdrawals.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the UN temporary forces in southern Lebanon -- the UNIFIL?

Salim: As we did in the past at the United Nations, we are insisting on the role of UNIFIL and we insist on the deployment of UNIFIL forces in southern Lebanon and throughout Lebanon. We insist on this position.

AL-HAWADITH: Would you say that Israel, after the extensive round of talks in Washington, no longer resolutely insists on keeping some of its forces in Lebanon to guarantee its security?

Salim: I cannot say that. We can say that Israel has not withdrawn the conditions which we consider unacceptable for discussion. We can also say that the United States intends to submit new ideas to Israel as a result of which we hope Israel would withdraw its conditions, but so far Israel has not withdrawn its conditions.

AL-HAWADITH: About about the time element, Israel maintains that the Lebanese Army would not be able to control the situation before 3 years elapsed. What did the Washington talks accomplish regarding a timetable for agreement and withdrawal?

Salim: When agreement on points is reached the Israeli army will withdraw completely in a very short period.

AL-HAWADITH: And how long will the negotiations have to continue before an agreement is reached, in your opinion?

Salim: Not long, we hope, but nobody knows because the negotiations are still open.

AL-HAWADITH: What impression did you form of President Ronald Reagan after meeting him?

Salim: Amazing.

AL-HAWADITH: Why amazing?

Salim: The meeting was very great [as published] because the President spoke as if he was Lebanese.

AL-HAWADITH: Did the President assure you that his administration would provide U.S. guarantees for...[question incomplete]

Salim: He assured us of his insistence on the withdrawal of all armies from Lebanon, affirming that he would not back down from his position that Israel and other non-Lebanese forces must withdraw from Lebanon and must withdraw quickly -- not in the coming years, but in the coming weeks.

SALIM ON PROSPECTS OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

PM310821 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Mar 83 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim by ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT correspondent in Beirut -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Lebanon is still wagering on the U.S. role to resolve its crisis. Why?

[Answer] We have been and still are wagering on the United States because it is the only country in the world capable of influencing Israel with regard to withdrawal from Lebanon or elsewhere. I must point out here that none of those requested to withdraw and supposed to withdraw from Lebanon will do so before Israel withdraws. If the United States fails, God forbid, then we will try another U.S. attempt because we do not have many cards to play in this field. Therefore, our options are within the U.S. solution so that we will not be left alone. The U.S. solution could incorporate several courses and I believe that there are possibilities for success.

[Question] Has the United States so far brought any pressure to bear on Israel in the way it should?

[Answer] The United States does not exert pressure on Israel. Rather it uses with Israel some kind of attempts at persuasion in its own way stemming from the principle of keeping Israel strong. It tries by various U.S. ways to reach reasonable and just solutions. Recourse to threats toward Israel is of no avail. What would be of avail is the U.S. weapon of "persuasion" which comprises various means and subtle ways.

[Question] The Americans promised Lebanon that it would achieve a withdrawal on Lebanon's independence day on 22 November of last year. How does this relate to U.S. credibility?

[Answer] One of the biggest mistakes is recourse to simplification. I believe that fixing a date for withdrawal would be resented by Israel and makes it feel that it has no say in the matter where it believes it does have a say and, therefore, it resorts to delays. This was what happened, I believe.

[Question] After all that has happened and in the light of the information at your disposal, do you believe that Israel will withdraw from Lebanon?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] From all the areas it is occupying?

[Answer] Yes, from all of Lebanon.

[Question] On what basis are you evaluating the situation the way you do?

[Answer] For two basic reasons: The first is that U.S. policy insists that Lebanon should regain full national sovereignty on all of its territory, and it insists on Lebanon's independence and freedom and on the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. This is also supported by the EC and other international bodies.

The second reason is that this commitment is not just a slogan but a pledge to which all U.S. Governments are committed. President Reagan adopted this as one of the platforms on his recent election campaign and has been working to achieve it with his administration since he became the master of the White House.

This is a good and winning card for the President, the administration, and for every U.S. politician, considering that the Americans bear aloft the banner of supporting people's rights, preserving their freedom, opposing occupation, and upholding and preserving their independence. These are some of the principles of the United States.

[Question] Will you continue the negotiations with Israel in the same present manner?

[Answer] We are not obliged to, but, at the same time, we have no choice. We will continue the negotiations and regional and international activities in every field because, together with President Amin al-Jumayyil and other Lebanese leaders, we have a historical responsibility to liberate Lebanon and recover fully its independence, sovereignty, and freedom. This is a sacred responsibility in comparison with which all difficulties and complications are mere nothings.

[Question] What makes you so optimistic?

[Answer] The reason is the effective and conscious Lebanese-U.S. coordination that is based on reality and on Lebanon's persistence and solid stance. It is also due to regional and international support, the steadfastness of the U.S. stance, and Israel's lack of justification for remaining long in Lebanon. It is because negotiations have shown that there is no use in waiting and because the policy of divide and rule that was exercised in the mountains of Lebanon and other areas has been exposed.

[Question] Betting on the U.S. horse is understandable but what about the Soviet horse?

[Answer] The Soviet side has no influence on Israel. The Soviet Union has influence on Syria and the Palestinian resistance. We have no need for a third party between us and the Syrians and Palestinians. We have direct and close relations with Syrians and Palestinians. We have direct and close relations with Syria and the resistance. Besides, our relations with them are not like those with Israel.

[Question] What is the effect of the Saudi role?

[Answer] The Saudi role is crucial in every solution in the Middle East because the Kingdom has the greatest credibility with the United States and Europe as well as with the Arab countries. In every matter concerning the Middle East problem Saudi Arabia has an effective role. And in everything concerning the Lebanese problem it also has an effective role because the Kingdom has broad and strong relations with everybody, particularly with the United States. These relations are not based on ideologies and vague ideas but rather on substantial economic and political interests. This is in addition to the fact that Saudi concern in the problem has made it the leader of the moderate camp in the Arab world. It can achieve substantial progress with regard to solving the Lebanese problem and the Middle East problem, which boosts its credibility and its regional and international vanguard role.

[Question] It is being said that Lebanon must pay a price in return for the ending of the occupation. Israel wants a high price while Lebanon wants a low price.

[Answer] The price is security arrangements that will reassure Israel that there will be no attack on it or threat to its security from southern Lebanon. The Lebanese Army is prepared to undertake this responsibility not on the basis of the principle of preserving Israeli security but of preserving the security and sovereignty of Lebanon and enforcing its laws.

Lebanon's friends, foremost of which is the United States, are prepared to guarantee this with the help of the Lebanese Army and through strengthening it in order to carry out this task on the basis of the principle that Lebanon must prevent anything that jeopardizes its security, sovereignty, and authority within the 10,452 square miles of its territory. As for the price, Lebanon should not pay any price for the Israeli army's entry into its territory because Lebanon had nothing to do with this. The Israeli army, according to the Israelis themselves, entered Lebanon under the pretext of ensuring security (Galilee security). This security is the responsibility of us as Lebanese within our own territory. We shoulder the responsibility for this security and pledge ourselves to it with the backing of international guarantees if necessary.

The new U.S. proposals concerning security arrangements were submitted to us by President Reagan's administration just as they were submitted to the Israeli side. They are today the subject of discussion with U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib. There is a period of time, up to the East holidays, before we learn finally the fate of these proposals and the Israeli attitude toward them. This period of time is unconnected with any wagering on the U.S. initiative.

PRESS ON DIFFICULTIES OF HABIB'S MISSION

NC300847 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Press review]

[Excerpts] In its editorial, AL-ANWAR says: Lebanon is facing simultaneously two complex problems which are beyond its limits regardless of the obvious difficulties in the tripartite negotiations: the first is a Soviet decision checking the unrivaled U.S. position and -- preventing a U.S. settlement in Lebanon and the Middle East -- not only hindering it; the second is a serious defect on the U.S. settlement front.

In another column, AL-ANWAR says that Lebanon is negotiating on several fronts. These include the U.S. front so as to maintain a specific mode and a defined U.S. stand regarding Lebanon and so that no other pressures and interference will affect this mode and stand so long as the primary and basic wagering is on the initiative made by President Reagan, which still stands.

On its front page, AS-SAFIR says: Today ends the new phase of U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib's mission which started after the Washington talks. The paper points out that Habib's new mission focused on the security arrangements which are supposedly to be adopted before the Israeli withdrawal. Habib yesterday met with several Lebanese officials who rejected the Israeli proposals.

AL-BAYRAQ says that Habib's diplomatic mission is in a predicament after falling into the net of Israeli arrogance. This is evident from the failure to overcome the difficulties and to eliminate the Israeli conditions hindering the tripartite negotiations. This predicament in Ambassador Habib's efforts prompted yesterday's step by Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim to convey a message to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, asking him what in this case the U.S. Administration proposes to do to confront the predicament into which Habib's mission has fallen as a result of the Israeli stubborness and inflexibility. Such a question is: Would it be possible to amend the U.S. role so that it will become more effective in loosening the knots and eliminating the conditions that Israel is trying to dictate on Lebanon?

REPORTS SAY ANDROPOV TO VISIT SYRIA IN APRIL

Doha QNA Report

GF011352 Doha QNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 31 Mar (QNA) -- The QNA correspondent in Damascus has learned from diplomatic sources in Damascus that a high-ranking Soviet delegation led by Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, will make an official visit to Syria in April 1983. He also learned that contacts are under way between the Syrian and Soviet leaderships to prepare for the visit, fix its date, and draw up its itinerary.

Observers in Syria are attaching a great importance to the visit which will be the first by the Soviet leader to the Middle East since he assumed leadership of the Soviet Union. The observers say that the visit will consolidate the friendship treaty between the two countries and will strengthen Syria politically and militarily in the face of the Zionist onslaughter.

Cairo Radio Report

NC010836 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2330 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Damascus have mentioned that a Soviet delegation headed by Yuriy Andropov, CPSU general secretary, will make an official visit to Syria during April.

AL-KASM PRAISES USSR STATEMENT, SUPPORT

JN311600 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 31 Mar (SANA) -- Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm has asserted that struggle against Israel is only exercised by those who are progressive and socialist. Dr al-Kasm was speaking at the conference held by the representatives of workers at the boards of directors and administrative committees of the public sector's companies, factories, institutions, and establishments, which concluded their work here today.

Dr al-Kasm said: We stayed alone in the battle. This may give us pain, but it does not weaken our will or undermine our determination. When the battle reached a decisive point, no one remained in it except Syria because Syria linked pan-Arab struggle with socialist struggle and believed that no one could liberate the Arab territory except its sons, the workers, peasants, and all revolutionaries.

The prime minister added: All free and honorable people in the world stand by our side in our battle. The USSR's statement emphasized the meaning of true friendship. Those are the friends who stand by our side because they believe that we are struggling for the sake of a just cause; that we will fight from street to street and from house to house, and that we will not surrender no matter how fierce the battle is and no matter how large the forces facing us are.

He continued: We are taking into account the fact that we are facing the power of the United States and Zionism. We will not allow any preacher to tell us that the U.S. policy is something and Zionism is something else. He stressed that U.S. imperialism and Zionism are one power.

Dr al-Kasm talked about some voices which are calling on Syria to be realistic, not to take risks, and to be patient.

He explained that these phrases are aimed at avoiding confrontation and at capitulation. He added: Those pretending to be wise and calling on us to be realistic are the reactionaries. We have no other option and cannot call for the establishment of a progressive, socialist society on the one hand and bargain over our national causes under the slogan of realism on the other.

He affirmed that those who tried to rob the Arab will in the larger homeland and who tried to steal the Arab street will find themselves face to face with the Arab will and the Arab street -- which will stand by the side of honest, struggling Syria, which is faithful to the Arab cause.

On the propaganda campaigns unleased against Syria and its capabilities, Dr al-Kasm said: The economic measures that were taken and implemented and which rendered the social and economic situation strong and cohesive were aimed at preventing Syria from being placed under the mercy of our enemies. We will remain as we are now, a social, economic, and political power of a national trend free of bonds or subservience.

He added: Had it not been for the close cooperation between the government and the Syrian federation of trade unions, we would not have been able to overcome some defects. Dr al-Kasm stressed the importance of translating the slogan of progress and socialism into tangible facts in the people's life. He asserted that every citizen who sees something wrong and does not rectify it is neither progressive nor socialist, thus recalling President Hafiz al-Asad's statement that there is no life in this country except for progress and socialism.

BA'TH OFFICIAL RECEIVES NICARAGUAN DELEGATION

JN010738 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Comrade Muhammad Haydar, member of the National Command and head of the Command's foreign office, received the Nicaraguan Sandinist Liberation Front delegation led by Commander Victor Tiraos Lopez, member of the front's National Command, this evening. The discussion dealt with the current developments in the Middle East and Central America, which are both exposed to a vicious imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught. The two sides stressed the need for strengthening cooperation in various fields between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the revolution in Syria, and the Sandinist front and the revolution in Nicaragua, in order to find the best way to confront and abort this onslaught.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM CHADLI BENDJEDID

JN311507 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 31 Mar (SANA) -- President Hafiz al-Asad this morning received Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid's personal envoy Abdelkadir Ben Kasi, accompanied by Algerian Ambassador in Damascus Salih Boujoumaa.

Ben Kasi conveyed a message to the president from the Algerian president. President al-Asad handed him a reply message.

REAGAN WITHHOLDS DELIVERY OF NEW F-16'S

TA010521 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] President Reagan stated last night that as long as the IDF remain stationed in Lebanon, the United States will not be able to supply Israel the F-16's it has ordered. Reagan explained that U.S. law only allows arms supplies for defense purposes.

Therefore, as long as the forces of a certain country hold onto another country's territory, it is impossible to supply those arms. He said that this has been one of the obstacles in the wake of the freeze in Lebanon. President Reagan was speaking in Los Angeles, and made the aforementioned remarks in reply to a question about why the United States was not supplying the aircraft to Israel in view of the stationing of new missiles in Syria.

Referring to his peace plan, Reagan said that expereince on this issue has so far been frustrating also due to the freezse in Lebanon. Reacting to the U.S. President's remarks, a political source in Jerusalem said: These are very bizarre [muzarim beyoter] remarks. What Israel did in Lebanon was nothing but a self-defense operation, not for occupation purposes, and all the talks about occupation, as he phrased it, are very infuriating.

Officials Criticizes Reagan

TA011228 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] Israeli officials are sharply critical of President Reagan's statement to hold up the supply of F-16 planes to Israel until Israeli forces pull out of Lebanon. Reagan said it was impossible to supply the aircraft while Israeli forces were occupying another country. David Essing reports:

[Begin Essing recording] A senior Israeli official called President Reagan's remarks very surprising and annoying, and what he described as a contradiction in terms. He took issue with President Reagan's reason for withholding the F-16's.

The official said that Israel's campaign in Lebanon was a war of self-defense par excellence, and nothing to do with conquest. The Israeli forces had gone into Lebanon only in response to continued terrorist attacks and would have long evacuated Lebanese territory if an agreement had been reached to get all the Syrians and the PLO out of the country and prevent a return of any terrorist attacks.

Another top official called President Reagan's statement very serious. Now is not the time to withhold arms while the Russians and the Syrians had embarked on a sabre-rattling campaign against Israel.

Jerusalem has no plans to initiate any Reagan-Begin summit at this time. It is up to President Reagan to invite Prime Minister Begin to Washington. And, as another source puts it, Begin and Reagan differ on the basic issues of Lebanon and negotiations with Jordan. What would be the purpose of such a summit? For President Reagan to pressure Prime Minister Begin?

There is no official confirmation today to reports by Voice of Israel's reporter Shim'on Schiffer that Lebanon has agreed to joint military patrols in southern Lebanon. If the report is true and if the Lebanese do not deny or change their stand, this would signify major progress in the negotiations. [end recording]

REACTION TO SOVIET ACCUSATIONS ON SYRIA

Begin Comments

TA311152 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1143 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] A few minutes ago Prime Minister Menahem Begin said that Israel did not intend to attack Syria and, in his opinion, the Syrians also did not intend to attack Israel. Referring to the Soviet threat made to Israel yesterday, the prime minister said there was a great deal of artificiality in it. We must not ignore the Soviet threat, but we must also not sneer at it, the prime minister said.

Referring to the affair of the Israeli prisoners being held by the terrorists, Menahem Begin said that Israel was making every attempt to bring about their release and was being helped by every possible mediator, not only by the Austrians. However, to our regret, he added, the efforts have not to date brought results and this was very grave.

The prime minister was speaking with correspondents at the end of a meeting with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres. Mr Peres said that in his opinion there was no danger of war with Syria, but we should not ignore the Soviet threats.

This report was brought by our correspondent Sha'ul Stav.

Senior Source Comments

TA311055 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1048 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Israel has no aggressive intentions toward any of its neighbors, and the Soviet accusations on this matter are false and groundless. This has been said by a senior political source in Jerusalem. In a conversation with our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel, the political source said that based on past experience, attention and caution should be used with regard to the sharp warnings issued yesterday in the Soviet media. Israel, that source stressed, was now busy with the political negotiations for the removal of all the foreign forces from Lebanon and it does not intend to attack any of its neighbors.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel notes that no one in Jerusalem has any idea or clear information about Moscow's intentions. However, it does appear that the words that have been said by the Soviet leadership mean that the Soviet Union will not agree to an arrangement in Lebanon that is not to its liking.

U.S. Action Expected

TA311032 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 Mar 83 pp 1, 15

[Report by Ilan Kfir and Dorit Landes]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem regards the direct Soviet threat against Israel as an unprecedented exacerbation of the USSR's involvement in the region. A high-ranking political source in Jerusalem last night told MA'ARIV that Israel takes a very serious and concerned view of the Kremlin's threat against "alleged Israeli aggression" against Syria.

Sources in Jerusalem yesterday said that this move of the Soviet authorities against Israel is unprecedented since the Kremlin's direct threat to Israel on the eve of the 6-day war which was conveyed by Soviet Ambassador to Israel Dmitry Chuvakhin to then Prime Minister Levi Eshkol.

It was pointed out in Jerusalem last night that the Soviet Union has taken pains "not to cross the limit" in its relations with Israel despite the fact that diplomatic ties between the two countries have been severed since 1967. Although the Soviet Union has warned Israel several times in the past through various channels, it abstained from making these warnings official as was the case in the Kremlin's announcement yesterday which was given prominence in Moscow radio broadcasts and TASS dispatches.

Jerusalem regards this move as an escalation of relations between Moscow and Jerusalem. Senior political sources see yesterday's Soviet threat as a direct hint to the United States and Israel that any arrangements in Lebanon, which do not take into account the views of the Soviet Union and its Syrian ally, would be impossible.

MA'ARIV has learned that Israel intends to discuss the direct Soviet threat at the highest level, and with the U.S. Administration, and that it will demand firm action against the Soviet threat from the United States.

Political sources point out that the Soviet Union has fully exhausted the stubborn U.S. policy in the Lebanese crisis and Washington's inability to promote a direct arrangement between Israel and Lebanon, an arrangement which would have prevented the current peak of deep Soviet intervention in Syria.

It was emphasized in Jerusalem last night that Israel has no interest whatsoever in attacking Syria and that in spite of yesterday's warning, the Soviet Union is very well aware of this.

The Soviet declarations regarding Israel's alleged aggressive intentions toward Syria resemble the famous Soviet declarations in the spring of 1967. Then, too, Moscow was not interested in the facts and did not make use of the evidence that countered its arguments. At that time, Moscow also wanted to rekindle tension and prevent a dialogue.

However, this time, the Soviet Union is mainly aiming its arrows at the United States and the appeal to Israel serves only as the means (it should be pointed out that the appeal is not yet direct). Washington holds in its hands the mediation efforts in the Middle East and enjoys diplomatic prestige. Since June, Moscow has had to make do with a marginal role that it does not like. It finds it difficult to soothe the Arabs who are bitter at Washington: The Soviet Union cannot appease or compensate them and it cannot persuade the United States to accept some of its concepts. The shortcircuit between the superpowers also applies to the Middle East.

The Arabs are convinced that Israel is able to overcome them only because of U.S. help. The Soviet Union is trying to profit from this situation. It attacks both Israel and the United States, claiming they are coordinating belligerent initiatives. It seems that Moscow is hoping for an Israeli outcry which would lead the United States to stand by its side. Thus, the Soviets would be clearly proving to the Arabs that Washington, Israel's friend, is unreliable, that there should be no cooperation with it, that it is not an impartial mediator, and moreover, one should not heed U.S. requests to evince flexibility because its main aim is to help Israel and only Israel.

SOVIET ENVOY DENIES ADVISERS IN LEBANON

TA311950 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] The Soviet ambassador in Beirut, Aleksandr Soldatov, said today that there are no Soviet advisers among the Syrian troops in Lebanon. Our correspondent Mikha'el Gurdus reports that the Voice of Lebanon stated this evening that the IDF and the Syrian Army are digging in along their mutual front, and that for the purpose of these fortifications soldiers from both armies have taken apart most of the railroad in the area.

CAIRO REPORTS ANDROPOV TO VISIT SYRIA IN APRIL

TA312044 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Sources in Damascus have said that the new leader of the Soviet Union, Yuriy Andropov, will pay an official visit to Syria next month. A report to this effect was broadcast on Cairo radio this evening. Our Arab affairs correspondent says that the report said that Andropov would come at the head of a high-ranking military delegation. No further details have been reported. This report has not been confirmed by Damascus or Moscow.

SCHIFFER ON SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN SYRIA

TA311754 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer is in the studio. He will assess the Soviet Union's latest move, that of its warning against Israel:

[Schiffer] The prime minister has said that one should neither scoff nor panic, and political circles indeed made an effort today not to cause a verbal escalation following the Soviet Union's warning to Israel. Informed sources told us that dealing with this matter requires great composure because there are indications in the field that the Syrians are preparing for the possibility of hostilities erupting with Israel in the coming months. Israel is following developments, and the details are fully known, the sources said.

However, it seems that this was not the Russians' intention. First, in threatening Israel they sought to justify the positioning of the SAM-5's in Syria along with all the systems accompanying them. In this way, the Soviet Union also makes Syria a focus that will deter Husayn from joining the regional peace process. There are additional reasons, of course, for the increased Soviet involvement in the region. The latest declaration boosts the force of the Syrian veto over any settlement achieved between Israel and Lebanon via U.S. mediation.

As for Israel and the United States, during the war Israeli Government spokesmen were wont to say that the United States had emerged strengthened in the region because of the war, and that Israel had pushed the Soviet Union out of the region. Now U.S. spokesmen tell us that not only have we not strengthened our position, but we have created a new focus of world tension. The price that will be demanded of Israel is in the form of a U.S. demand for further concessions in the settlement with Lebanon.

REPORTAGE ON TALKS IN QIRYAT SHEMONA

31 Mar Talks

TA311138 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1110 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Let us go over to Qiryat Shemona, to the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon. The negotiations have reached a complicated and delicate stage, the head of the Israeli delegation, David Kimche, said this morning. We will not be able to give up our demands [derishotenu] regarding the security arrangements, Kimche said, but emphasized that we still believe an agreement is attainable. Hayim Hecht reports from Qiryat Shemona:

[Begin recording] [Hecht] The plenary session began 20 minutes late this morning. During these minutes David Kimche and Antoine Fattal, the heads of the Israeli and Lebanese delegations, held a tete-a-tete talk. Members of the delegations talked with journalists in the meantime and the issues are of course those of the firm Soviet declaration, Syrian intentions, and U.S. pressure.

David Kimche opened the plenary session by focusing on the minutest possible details of the security arrangements in southern Lebanon. The entire agreement depends for its success or failure on these arrangements. However, he emphasized, Israel believes an agreement is possible.

Avi Pazner, the spokesman of the Israeli delegation, said: [Pazner] First, the Israeli and the Lebanese Governments, as well as the people in these two countries, want to achieve an agreement. Second, we cannot believe that after what happened during the last 8 years in southern Lebanon, the Lebanese Government will not show sensitivity to our security needs. We simply cannot believe this. Third, failure in the negotiations will be bad for all parties, but especially for Lebanon, of course.

[Hecht] Kimche then began a series of compliments for the Lebanese Army. However, he stressed that this army was harmed during the last 8 years and we do not believe it can now undertake the security arrangements in the south in a manner that is satisfactory for Israel.

[Pazner] The security arrangements we are talking about refer, partly or even mostly, to the time elapsing between our withdrawal from Lebanon and the time when the Lebanese Army will again be capable of taking care of Lebanon's security affairs. During this time it is important to adopt special, unusual security measures in order to guarantee our northern border.

[Hecht] Antoine Fattal was thankful for the compliments and declared that as far as Israel is concerned, the security arrangements in the south are a right. Lebanon sees it as its duty to guarantee this right. Morris Draper reinforced Fattal's statement and the plenary session then moved on to a discussion of security matters.

Elements in the Lebanese delegation told us that if Israel continues to insist on its demands [derishoteha], they will not hesitate to expose some of these demands [derishoteha] in the media so that the world will know who foiled the talks.

The Beirut paper of AN-NAHAR said this morning that Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim sent a sharp letter to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz which expressed wonder as to whether the Americans really cannot convince Israel to accept the U.S. position. Radio correspondents accompanying the Lebanese delegation broadcast from Qiryat Shemona this morning that George Shultz will soon visit the Middle East. Avi Pazner does not know of such a visit.

[Pazner] I also think that the Lebanese, those elements who talk with you, should have already known that pressure on Israel will not be to any avail and that Israel will not be able to make any compromises on security matters. We will insist on all of the factors which will guarantee our security on the northern border. [end recording]

Spokesmen Comment

NC311140 Paris AFP in English 1122 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Qiryat Shemona, northern Israel, March 31 (AFP) -- Lebanese, Israeli, and U.S. negotiators held unusually lengthy talks here today on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, hearing reports from military experts on security proposals for southern Lebanon. The delegations did not adjourn to allow commissions of experts to meet, as is usually the case.

Earlier, the chief Israeli delegate to the talks, David Kimche, was quoted as saying that he expected the debate on the security arrangements to be "a delicate and difficult stage."

The security arrangements have been perhaps the most disputed issue in the talks, which have been going on since December. Israel wants to help patrol southern Lebanon, and Lebanon rejects this as an infringement on its sovereignty.

But an Israeli spokesman, Avi Pazner, quoted Mr. Kimche as saying an agreement is "possible" because the "peoples and governments of Lebanon and Israel want peace, (and) because the Lebanese side must understand Israel's security needs after what has happened in the past eight years." Mr. Pazner also reported that Mr. Kimche had praised the Lebanese Army, while adding that it was "in complete reorganization."

Mr. Pazner reported that Mr. Kimche asked for a security arrangement that would cover the period between an Israeli withdrawal and the Lebanese deployment in southern Lebanon.

But Antoine Fattal, the chief Lebanese negotiator, replied by saying that a complete withdrawal by all foreign forces would further reinforce an Army that "has not stopped strengthening itself," a Lebanese spokesman said. The spokesman, Dawud as-Sayigh, added that Mr. Fattal had said Israeli flexibility now would be "profitable," since Lebanon had already made numerous concessions.

Yesterday, officials in Beirut said it was possible the talks could accelerate to four rounds per week instead of two, beginning next Monday.

Progress Reportedly Made

TA311615 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1515 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] A few minutes ago in Qiryat Shemona the latest round of talks ended among Israel, Lebanon, and the United States. We go over to our correspondent Hayim Hecht in Qiryat Shemona:

[Hecht] Throughout the entire day, the delegations sat in plenum and discussed the security arrangements in the 45-km strip. Israeli delegation head David Kimche said that this matter would determine the success or failure of the settlement. His Lebanese counterpart, Antoine Fattal, agreed. He said Israel has a right to security arrangements and that it is Lebanon's duty to ensure those arrangements. The concluding statement read here a few minutes ag was optimistic. The discussion was described with the usual adjectives: "good," "exhaustive," and "serious." The spokesmen said that progress had been achieved. With the unyielding statements in Beirut and Jerusalem in the background, the spokesmen hurried to add: Visible on both sides was a sincere desire to concede on something so that it wo ld be possible to sign an agreement.

Aside from the official statement, Dr Da'ud as-Sayigh, the spokesman of the Lebanese delegation, told us: Lebanon has reached the limit of its concessions. We have nothing more to give. We will not make compromises on anything concerning our country's sovereignty.

Avi Pazner, the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry spokesman, said they must understand that regarding the security arrangements, we cannot compromise. The official statement, it should be recalled, said that progress had been achieved. The talks will continue next week in Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona.

More on Progress

TA311837 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1730 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Report from Qiryat Shemona by Hayim Hecht]

[Excerpt] Apart from the official statement at the end of today's talks in Qiryat Shemona, Lebanese delegation spokesman Dr Da'ud as-Sayigh told us: Lebanon has reached the limit of its concessions. We have nothing more to give. We will not compromise on anything concerning our country's sovereignty.

Israel's representatives stress that they will not compromise on the subject of the security arrangements. It should be recalled that the official statement said that progress had been made. Foreign Ministry spokesman Avi Pazner sees no contradiction here:

[Begin recording] [Pazner] For us, the security matters are of the highest priority. We will not compromise on our security. You should understand that in some of the matters we discussed, there was still room for movement -- though not necessarily on our part.

[Hecht] The Lebanese delegation representative said that they are unable to compromise on matters connected with Lebanese sovereignty. How does this fit in with progress, if we are declaring that we are unable to compromise on matters tied to our security?

[Pazner] We did not want to, nor do we want to, under any circumstances infringe on Lebanese sovereignty. And none of the arrangements we have proposed contains an infringement of Lebanon's sovereignty.

[Hecht] Was Major Sa'd Haddad's status discussed today?

[Pazner] We did not discuss that issue today. We discussed the other issues, including the matter of the joint patrols, on which progress was also achieved.

[Hecht] What was the Americans' contribution to today's discussion? Did they try to pressure Israel in any way?

[Pazner] There was no attempt to pressure. Most of the dialogue was between Israel and Lebanon, and the U.S. participation was very limited. [end recording]

Agreement on Joint Patrols

TA010530 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] Progress has been reportedly made in the talks with Lebanon. It was agreed yesterday that Israel would be able to conduct up to 10 mobilized patrols daily in the security areas in southern Lebanon along with Lebanese Army officers. Those taking part in the patrols would be allowed to spend the night in Lebanese territory, and no restrictions would be imposed on their comings and goings to and from that area.

According to elements close to the negotiating process, this is the most significant progress reached to date. It seems that reports about a possible one-sided Israeli withdrawal within Lebanon led the Lebanese to change their mind about the joint patrols which are currently called control and confirmation teams [tzivte piqu'ah veimut].

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that only the question of Major Haddad's status still remains open. According to political sources, there may be a softening in the Israeli position on this issue. Israel's wish is that Maj Haddad's presence continue as the element in charge of security in southern Lebanon. If he is assured honorable status, there would also be an Israeli concession on this issue.

In the current talks, the Lebanese representatives are mentioning the names of various Lebanese Army officers who would head the southern brigade that would be stationed in southern Lebanon. According to knowledgeable sources in Jerusalem, the people in question are known to Israel and they can be trusted.

PERES, BEGIN MEET IN JERUSALEM 31 MAR

Discuss Romania, Lebanon

TA311129 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1103 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] A meeting between Prime Minister Begin and Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres is under way at the moment. Our correspondent Sha'ul Stav reports from the prime minister's office:

The meeting between Menahem Begin and Shim'on Peres began 15 minutes late. Files of documents intended to serve the prime minister and the Labor Party chairman during the meeting have been placed on the table. The meeting here is being held at the initiative of Shim'on Peres, who wanted to report to the prime minister about his talks with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. Among other things at those talks, the Romanian president's activity on exchanges of prisoners between Israel, Syria, and the PLO, and the possibility of Husayn joining the political process were discussed. We may assume that the situation in Lebanon was also raised in the talk.

Observers comment that no dramatic importance should be attributed to the meeting. There is a renewal of direct dialogue between the prime minister and the chairman of the Labor Party after months of almost complete severance. Let us also recall that following the stormy events that accompanied the publication of the Kahan commission's report, a proposal was put forward to maintain a permanent framework of dialogue between the prime minister and the chairman of the opposition. Today's meeting is not the realzation of that idea, but, after a long time, there are exchanges of information, exchanges of views, and opinions in a tete-a-tete meeting. That is all from the prime minister's office.

More on Meeting

TA311247 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin met a short time ago with Labor opposition leader Shim'on Peres. Over to David Essing at the prime minister's office:

[Essing] After meeting with opposition leader Shim'on Peres this morning, Prime Minister Begin reacted to the recent Soviet threats against Israel. Prime Minister Begin says there is no reason to underrate the Soviet threat, but no reason to panic, either. Begin says: I am of the view that Syria has no reason to attack. We, for our part, have no plans to attack Syria. The prime minister went on to say that the matter of the Soviet threats was what he called totally artificial.

Asked if the Soviet Union might be signaling that it wants to join the negotiating process, the prime minister said that this may be the case, but the Soviet Union had not taken any step in this direction so far.

The prime minister also said that Israel was doing everything possible to secure the release of Israeli prisoners, but so far, to no avail. So, how serious are the threats in the eyes of opposition leader Shim'on Peres after his meeting with Prime Minister Begin this morning? We put the question to him:

[Begin recording] [Peres] I take them very seriously. Soviet Russia is a superpower, though I am convinced that Isreal hasn't the slightest intention of any military act or warlike act against the Syrians.

[Essing] Could it be that the Syrians simply want to get into the negotiating process, or might they have a military threat in mind?

[Answer] I know of better ways to get into the negotiating process and I think all threats are counterproductive to people who seek peace in the Middle East.

[Question] Mr Peres, Ambassador Habib is now back on his way to the United States. He seems to have failed again to reach an agreement over Lebanon. How serious is the situation in the negotiations?

[Answer] Well, a lack of an agreement makes the situation very serious. If Israel will really insist on the security interests she is having in the southern part of Lebanon, she doesn't have a choice but to insist on it, but this must be the major issue.

[Question] Do you agree with the government's position to stand upon Major Haddad as the major security force in southern Lebanon?

[Answer] Well, that was our position before the government started the negotiations, because, as a matter of fact, it was our government that started its relations with Maj Haddad and I believe that during all those difficult periods of time, Maj Haddad has shown himself as a Lebanese patriot and as the person who commands the cause [as heard] that Israel can rely upon in maintaining peace in this part of Lebanon. [end recording]

[Essing] Shim'on Peres was asked whether he thought that a summit between Prime Minister Begin and President Reagan might overcome the impasse. In his view, in Shim'on Peres' view, the negotiations should continue before a summit is thought about. This is David Essing reporting from the prime minister's office.

No Talks With PLO

TA311638 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said today that Israel has no intention of attacking Syria, and that he does not think that Syria will attack us. All the threats being made by Moscow and Damascus have a completely artificial basis. Begin was speaking after a meeting he held this morning with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports:

[Golan] The first meeting in a long time between Menahem Begin and Shim'on Peres lasted about an hour. The prime minister described it afterward as a pleasant discussion, while the Labor Party chairman clarified that the subject of a national unity government was not raised. The two discussed much more topical matters: the threats being voiced against Israel by the Soviet Union and Syria. On leaving his office, Begin reacted to the threats and warnings:

[Begin Begin recording] There is no need to scoff or panic. Such things have happened before.

I do not think that Syria will attack us, and we definitely have no intention whatsoever of attacking Syria. All these threats are founded on a completely artificial basis. But this is the situation that recurs. [end recording]

The prime minister was asked if there is any news about the POW's.

[Begin Begin recording] We are making every possible effort. But so far there have been no results, to our deep sorrow. This is a very grave matter. [end recording]

I reported to the prime minister about my lengthy talks with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres told us after the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Peres] The contents of the talk dealt with three situations: the situation in Lebanon; the negotiations with Jordan; and the PLO. I recounted the contents of our talks in considerable detail.

[Golan] Did you and the prime minister agree on any points in your talk?

[Peres] There is one point, which is the Labor Party's position. We do not believe that negotiations with the PLO are either possible or useful. On the other matters, each of us stuck to his views. [end recording]

At this point no further meetings have been set between the prime minister and the head of the large opposition party. Perhaps it was symbolic that when Peres was asked by photographers at the beginning of the meeting to move a bit closer to Begin, he answered: You are asking too much.

RADIO SUMS UP 30 MARCH LAND DAY EVENTS

TA301618 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Eleven people, including three tourists, were injured by stonethrowing in Ad-Duhayshah today. There were fewer incidents this year during Land Day events than in previous years, security elements have reported. The police have reported that so far nine people have been arrested: four minors from Jerusalem and five Bedouin from the Negev.

In Judaea and Samaria, too, there have been some arrests, but there are no reports on the number of detentions involved because some of the people were released a short while after they were detained. There was a commercial strike in east Jerusalem, but on the other hand shops opened throughout the towns of Judaea and Samaria. A curfew was imposed on the Qalandiyah and Ad-Duhayshah refugee camps as a result of the stonethrowing.

The main Land Day rallies were held in Tel Sheva' in the Negev and in Deir Hanna in the Galilee. Demonstrations marking Land Day were also held in Beirut and Damascus.

HEALTH MINISTRY SAYS JANIN POISONINGS UNFOUNDED

TA311723 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] The poisoning is a psychological plague and the outcome of waves of hysterics. Health Ministry Director General Professor Barukh Modan said this was the diagnosis for the mysterious poisoning afflicting schoolgirls in Janin. The extensive examination we have carried out in Janin itself as well as in some Israeli hospitals has shown without a doubt that there was no poisoning, he said.

[Begin recording] [Modan] On the basis of the clinical, laboratory, and environmental tests we carried out in hospitals in Judaea and Samaria, and in the center of Israel, as well as some laboratory analyses carried out in a number of institutions, we can say that right now we have no proof of poisoning, either deliberate or spontaneous.

[Unidentified correspondent] Most probably, Prof Modan added, a certain psychological trend lies at the bottom of the poisoning affair:

[Modan] [Words indistinct] that this is hysterics. We regard this as a plague that most probably has no organic background. There can be a number of elements that encouraged this, most probably the pressure resulting from the circumstances.

[Unidentified correspondent] Judaea and Samaria civilian administrator, Shlomo Ilia, had something to say about these incidents:

[Ilia] I think it is impossible to ignore the affinity between the incidents and the political situation in the area, namely the political event in the area which we all got ready for, and we knew that various political elements intended to try to incite the man-in-the-street in Judaea and Samaria.

[Unidentified correspondent] All told, the number of those affected by the plague in 'Arrabah and Janin reaches some 380. Of them, 106 are still hospitalized at this moment, and 4 are in Israeli hospitals. [end recording]

Janin Rejects Findings

TA311854 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Persons in Janin have rejected the Health Ministry finding that the town's girls were not poisoned. The head of the town's commercial bureau, (Fathi Fahmawi), has asked all the elements to reinvestigate the case and also allow an independent element from outside Israel to investigate it. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that 50 girl students have been released from the Nabulus Hospital, but that 15 of them were rehospitalized as soon as they arrived in Janin. Our correspondent also reports that the security forces' investigation showed that the 'Arrabah village girls who suffered from a similar phenomenon had been vaccinated a day before against tetanus. The vaccine is being tested.

ALGERIA

FLN SEES BENDJEDID'S TUNISIA VISIT AS PROMISING

LD292246 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] The recent official visit of the brother president, Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN Party, to the fraternal Tunisian Republic continues to create great echoes at more than one level. This is due to the importance of this visit in the framework of strengthening the rapprochement between the peoples of the Arab Maghreb, its contribution to the rebirth of constructive cooperation among the states of the area, and its unifying efforts for building a greater Arab Maghreb.

The official spokesman of the FLN Party has made the following statement:

The widening range of the echo which continues to be created by the results of the visit to Tunisia by President Chadli Bendjedid is the best proof of the extent of the attention the countries of the area have paid to the emergence of new horizons, which meet the deepest aspirations of their people.

Thus, the Libyan Government sent an important delegation to Algeria, headed by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, who held talks embracing bilateral relations, and the current situation in the Arab Maghreb and the Arab world. The talks were recorded in the minutes of the session.

The visit by Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud was a good opportunity for reaffirming the principles and measures stipulated in the resolutions taken in Tunisia.

It goes without saying that reviving an ideal cooperation among the states of the area basically depends on their mutual interests.

Accordingly, a firm commitment to march along this path is one of the demands of our peoples. Building the Arab Maghreb as an integral part of the Arab homeland tends to help realize Arab unity, which is an aim; even if it derives its content from a distant view it is always before us.

The effort that each of us as individuals and groups must make in this direction to hasten the advent of rapprochement among the peoples of the area cannot be contemplated except on the basis of fraternity and solidarity, and on the common interest of conformity with the principles of self-determination and noninterference in the domestic affairs of others and mutual respect of territorial integrity and national sovereignty.

In this spirit, and with agreement with those who are totally committed to it, Algeria, in its unchanging march, seeks to work in an atmosphere of confidence for building the Arab Maghreb.

SWAPO'S NUJOMA ON ANGOLA, NAMIBIA 'LINKAGE'

LD311510 Algiers APS in English 1440 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Algiers, 31/3/83 (APS) -- "The international conference of solidarity with front line countries held in Lisbon expressed its acting support for all liberation movements particularly for SWAPO and Namibia", SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma said in a statement to the press, made just before his leaving Algiers today.

Mr Nujoma qualified the conference as "positive" for it mobilized he said the European public opinion and condemned the U.S. policy of linkage and the racist aggressions perpetrated by the South African regime against front line countries especially against the Angolan people.

As concerns the evolution of negotiations between SWAPO and the contact groups, SWAPO leader said the contact group activities were quite crippled by the U.S. imperialism, which support the South African racial regime and links, by the linkage process, Namibia's independence to the withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola.

"Angola," Mr Nujoma said, "is a sovereign state which has all rights to conclude accords with friend countries", precising that the U.S. condition related to the withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola is an interference in the Namibian people's struggle for independence.

COMMITMENT TO OPEC BENCHMARK PRICE REAFFIRMED

LD310052 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The British National Oil Corporation has decided to cut the price of a barrel of oil by 50 to 75 cents. It cut the price of one type of oil from $30.50 to $29.75 and another type from $30.50 to $30.

It is essential that this new price cut, which the observers have been expecting since the last OPEC meeting, not lead to a review of the structure of the OPEC price scale. On its part, Algeria wishes to reaffirm its will to defend the price of oil barrel which was fixed at $29 dollars in London by the other OPEC member countries.

Algeria does not feel that the cut in the price of the North Sea oil by 50 to 75 cents will constitute a threat to the collective agreement reached on 14 March should OPEC adopt a firm stand demanding short-term sacrifices in terms of the reduction of OPEC oil production. It called for the solidarity of all OPEC member countries and warned against giving priority to individual short-term objectives which will threaten the operation of price control and consequently harm the oil-producing countries.

In addition to its negative repercussions on the oil-producing countries, this will lead to a quick imbalance [khalal] in the world energy supply leading in turn to an extreme reduction in prices with untold consequences not only on the exporting countries but also on the current economic and financial balance.

ALGERIAN-ANGOLAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE NOTED

LD291203 Algiers APS in English 1013 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Algiers, 29/3/83 (APS) -- "Algeria and Angola express their deep concern before the aggravation of tension provoked by imperialism and restate their indefectible support for the brother people of South Africa and its vanguard ANC," [says] a joint communique released at the end of an FLN delegation's friendship and work visit in the People's Republic of Angola.

In this communique, both parties renewed their acting solidarity with the Namibian people which is leading a heroic struggle under the sponsorship of its sole representative SWAPO, and underlined the need of the immediate implementation of the UN Resolution 435 which constitutes the only fair basis to settle this problem.

The two parties reaffirmed moreover their support for the OAU and UN resolutions and non-aligned recommendations as concerns the Western Sahara people's right to self determination and independence.

As for the situation in the Mideast, especially in Lebanon, the FLN and MPLA parties firmly condemned massacres perpetrated by Zionist troops against civil Palestinian and Lebanese populations.

Besides, they reiterated their support and solidarity with all liberation movements in Africa, Asia, Latin America, which are struggling for just causes, freedom and independence.

The Algerian and Angolan sides also underlined the necessity to promote inter-African cooperation and South-South economic relations to preserve Third World high interests.

Algeria and Angola praised, in this connection, the fruitful evolution of bilateral cooperation in all fields and expressed their will to work for its improvement.

Further Report

LD311149 Algiers APS in English 1001 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Algiers, 31/3/83 (APS) -- A joint communique from the Peoples Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and the Party of National Liberation Front (FLN) was issued in Algiers following the friendly and working visit by an FLN delegation (?to the) Democratic People's Republic of Angola from 15 to 17 March 1983.

Talks between the two delegations enabled the two delegations to realize their identity of views over the whole questions and to proceed to the analysis of their bilateral relations and to study the ways and means to strengthen and develop them.

Analysing the situation prevailing in Africa the two delegations expressed their deep concern over the aggravation of tension created by imperialism manoeuvers.

As concerns southern Africa, the two sides reiterated their vigorous condemnation of the racist regime of Pretoria and reaffirmed their fullest support for the South African people and its vanguard ANC. The two delegations condemn the illegal occupation of Namibia by the South African regime and the dilatory manoeuvers by the Western big powers aimed at thwarting its inevitable independence.

Therefore they reiterate their acting solidarity with its unique and legitimate representative (SWAPO).

The delegation of MPLA Party of Work informed the FLN Party delegation of the Angolan-Cuban joint declaration of the fourth February 1982 linked to the presence of Cuba in People's Republic of Angola.

The two delegations consider that this presence proves the will of the two sovereign states and will not serve as a pretext to delay Namibia's accession to independence.

The two delegations condemn virgorously the aggressions perpetrated against the front line countries. The Algerian part expressed its acting solidarity for the front line countries in their efforts to preserve their independence and their territorial integrity.

The two delegations also reaffirmed their solidarity with OAU, and UN and the recommendations of the Nonaligned Movement linked to the rights of Western Sahara for self-determination and independence under its unique and legitimate representative the Polisario Front.

The two delegations consider the OAU as the appropriate [word indistinct] for the solution of all the African peoples on the basis of the principles announced by the charter and condemn the imperialist manoeuvers.

The two delegations expressed their deep indignation over the massacres of the civilian Palestinian and the Lebanese peoples.

They furthermore expressed their militant solidarity with all the militant movement of liberation in Africa, in Asia, and in Latin America.

They expressed satisfaction with the results of the nonaligned summit and reiterated their countries adhesion with its principles. They said the inter-African cooperation and the development of the South-South economic relations is necessary to safeguard the Third World higher interests.

In this regard, the two delegations expressed their will to deepen and reinforce their cooperation.

Following their talks the two parts signed an official accord of cooperation for the year 1983-1985.

ALGERIAN, MAURITANIAN INTERIOR MINISTERS MEET

LD281302 Algiers APS in English 1017 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Algiers, 28/3/83 (APS) -- Mr M'hamed Yala, Politbureau member, home minister and Colonel Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, member of the Military Committee of National Salvation and home minister of Republic of Mauritania presided over yesterday in Algiers a working session which grouped the two countries delegations.

Talks between the two sides dealt with bilateral relations and the means to reinforce it.

COMMUNIQUE ON TANZANIAN VISIT BY FLN MEMBERS

PM311039 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 18-19 Mar 83 p 4

[APS report: "Convergence of Views on Main International Problems"]

[Text] Algiers -- A joint communique of the FLN Party and Revolutionary Party of Tanzania [CCM] was issued in Algiers at the end of a CCM delegation's visit to Algeria.

The text of this communique is as follows:

At the FLN Party's invitation a CCM delegation headed by Mr Kingunge Ngombale Mwira, member of the National Executive Committee Central Committee, and secretary of the CCM Ideological, Political and Education Department, visited Algiers from 11 through 15 March 1983.

During its visit the CCM delegation was received in particular by Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Politburo and head of the Permanent Secretariat.

The CCM went to the Tizi-Ouzou Wilaya where it visited a number of socioeconomic projects and found out about the work carried out by the militant grassroots at mouhafadha [subdivision of Wilaya] level.

The CCM delegation had talks with a FLN party delegation headed by Mr Sliman Hoffman, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission....

The two delegations paid very special attention to the situation which prevails on the African Continent.

They consider that imperialism's and neocolonialism's offensive against the Third World countries, especially the African countries, the redeployment of forces and the reactivation of foreign bases, the many different kinds of maneuvers and pressures, are aimed at reconquering lost ground, countering the vast national liberation movement, creating and maintaining artificial tension, stirring up, encouraging and increasing conflicts and disagreements to distract the African peoples from the tasks of building, to hinder a fruitful and vital cooperation and break the ties of solidarity which united them -- ties woven in the joint struggle to win back their sovereignty and dignity.

They strongly condemn all maneuvers aimed at weakening or dividing the OAU and distracting the organization from its continental vocation and its battle for Africa's total emancipation and its development in cooperation, harmony, security, and peace.

Attachment to the OAU

In this connection the two delegations reiterated their unswerving attachment to the OAU and the ideals it embodies which correspond to the African peoples' deep aspirations.

They expressed their hope to see the forthcoming Addis Ababa summit take the decisions which are vital for strengthening African cohesion, solidarity, and unity.

The situation in southern Africa and its implications for the countries in the region were widely discussed by the two delegations.

The FLN Party and the CCM once again recalled that the anachronistic and racist apartheid regime -- by-product of international imperialism -- still constitutes a grave danger and a constant threat to security and peace in the region.

They strongly condemned the constant and criminal aggressions of the racist Pretoria regime's Armed Forces against Mozambique, Angola, Lesotho, and other countries in the region to which they reiterated the expression of their active solidarity.

The two delegations condemned the delaying tactics and vacillation of some contact group countries which are aimed at curtailing and raising the stakes on Namibia's independence.

They condemned the policy of confusion pursued by U.S. imperialism which aims to perpetuate South African presence in Namibia and to interfere in the Angolan state's sovereign decisions.

Support for the Struggling African People

The FLN Party and the CCM reiterated their active support for the Namibian people in their liberation struggle under SWAPO's leadership and demanded the implementation of UN Resolution 435.

They also reaffirmed their solidarity with the South African people in their legitimate fight against the apartheid regime for their national independence.

The two delegations examined the situation prevailing in northwest Africa and consider that it contains the seeds of serious dangers for peace in the region.

They reiterated their full and unconditional support for the Saharan people's struggle under the Polisario's leadership, for their inviolable right to self-determination and independence.

The two delegations stated that the opening of direct negotiations between the SDAR and Morocco is the only way to establish a just and lasting peace in the Western Sahara in keeping with the OAU and UN decisions and recommendations.

They consider that the solution of this decolonization problem will certainly open up new and promising prospects in the framework of building the Maghreb.

Analyzing the situation in the Middle East the FLN and CCM paid a warm tribute to the Palestinian people's struggle and recalled that any approach to solving the Near East problem requires recognition of the Palestinian people's fundamental rights to build their own state under the leadership of the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, and the withdrawal of Zionist troops from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

They welcomed the decisions made by the 16th Palestine National Council session held in Algiers in February 1983 and consider that the latter, while strengthening the Palestinian resistance's unity and independence, open up new prospects for the Palestinian people's heroic struggle.

The two delegations expressed their solidarity with the Lebanese people who are facing a vast imperialist-Zionist plot whose objective is to undermine Lebanon's territorial integrity, sovereignty, independence, and unity.

The presence of foreign bases in the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean prompted the two delegations to express their acute anxiety in face of the dangers which the presence of these military bases poses for international security and peace.

They subscribe to the appeal launched by the Seventh Nonaligned Summit in New Delhi and to all the initiatives aimed at turning the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean into zones of peace and cooperation free from hegemonist influences and rivalry between the superpowers.

Discussing the present international economic crisis, the FLN party and the CCM expressed the view that the solution to the serious problems with which mankind is, and remains, confronted lies in the democratization of international relations and the establishment of a new international economic order based on fairness and equality between rich and developing countries.

In this respect they call for the opening of global negotiations in the UN framework and for the strengthening of South-South cooperation.

At the end of their talks the two delegations welcomed the cooperation that exists between their countries and reiterated their mutual desires to extend and consolidate this cooperation in their people's interest and they also noted with satisfaction the similarity of their viewpoints on all the problems examined.

A cooperation agreement was signed between the two parties with the aim of extending the cooperation between the two parties and extending relations between the mass organizations.

The CCM delegation warmly thanked the Algerian side for the warm and fraternal welcome it was given during its visit to Algeria and issued an invitation to an FLN party delegation.

That invitation was accepted with pleasure.

The date will be fixed later by joint agreement.

MOROCCAN INTERIOR MINISTER VISITS ALGERIA

Meets Foreign Minister

LD311325 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi received Moroccan Interior Minister Driss Basri at the Foreign Ministry this morning. Talks were held in the presence of Brothers Hadj Yala, member of the Political Bureau and interior minister, and Hadj Ben 'Abdl al-Kader Azzoug, member of the Central Committee and secretary general of the Foreign Ministry.

Talks Begin 30 March

LD311140 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Algiers, 31 Mar (APS) -- Algerian-Moroccan talks commenced yesterday in Algiers between the delegations of the Interior Ministries of the two countries. The delegations were headed by the Algerian Mr M'hamed Yala, member of the Political Bureau and minister of interior; and by the Moroccan Mr Driss Basri, minister of interior.

The Moroccan delegation, who arrived Algiers yesterday, was received by Mr M'hamed Yala, member of the Political Bureau and minister of interior; and Mr Abdelhak el Kadiri, member of the Central Committee and director general of national security.

Interior Ministers Confer

LD312336 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Algiers, 31 Mar (MAP) -- Moroccan Interior Minister Driss Basri is continuing his visit to Algeria leading an important Moroccan delegation.

The Moroccan and the Algerian interior ministers held a separate meeting, followed by a broader working session during which issues concerning the movement of persons and property, the reopening of the airlines, and the various aspects of cooperation in certain sectors were discussed. During the meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of fraternity, sincerity, and harmony, both sides expressed the common desire to work in the spirit adopted by His Majesty King Hassan II and president Chadli Bendjedid during their historic meeting on 26 February. Both sides also agreed to work as soon as possible for the crystalization of the various measures agreed during the meeting of the two countries' leaders, measures that are capable of speeding up the establishment of the Arab Maghreb. Both sides confirmed their desire to define the bases of a sound and balanced cooperation, the need to resume exchanges between the two countries at all levels, and also to permit the movement of persons and property and to work on suitable solutions for the problems in question in a spirit of fraternity and mutual trust. Within this framework, in order to implement the will of the two heads of state and in response to the expectations of their peoples, the two sides reviewed the urgent problems with the aim of finding timely and suitable solutions to them.

Four working committees have been set up for this purpose with members from both delegations. Each will direct its attention and analysis to its area of specializa ion. After studying the various items on the agenda, two priorities were defined: first, finding urgent solutions to the urgent problems, and second, to embark on a vital series of cooperation in order to consolidate once again the close bilateral links in various fields.

Another meeting will be held Thursday evening -- that is, today -- before the work is ended in order to analyze the results of these talks. Today Driss Basri met with Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi. The meeting was attended by Algerian Interior Minister Yala and Secretary General at the Algerian Foreign Ministry Hadj Abdelkader Azzout.

LIBYA

IRANIAN MILITARY DELEGATION VISITS LIBYA

Tours Commando School

LD302352 Tripoli JANA in English 1722 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Bayan Awal, Jumada Thani 16, Mar 30, JAMAHIRIYAN NEWS AGENCY -- The Iranian military delegation, taking part in the Libyan people's celebrations marking the 13th anniversary of the evicting the British bases from Libyan soil, today toured the commando and paratroop school here.

They also toured Nasr Salh ad-Din Barracks and met with its Revolutionary Committee members, who elaborated on the dictum of the armed people and the barracks' military training and preparedness to defend the Great Al-Fatih Revolution's achievements.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Group

GF010850 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] The Iranian delegation currently visiting Libya to attend the celebrations of the evacuation of the British forces from Libyan territory, led by Tehran Majlis Deputy Fakhreddin Hejazi, has met with the Libyan leader colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

During the meeting, Hejazi said on the unity of the world's Muslims, the Muslims' unity to liberate Jerusalem, which was proposed by Iran for the first time, is now an urgent need more than at any time before.

In his reply, the Libyan leader said: We support the idea of forming a front to fight Zionism and imperialism. The Iranian people, by dealing the heaviest blow to the United States, were able to put an end to the biggest U.S. base in the region.

In reiterating support for the Islamic revolution in Iran, Col al-Qadhdhafi said: Any step against the Islamic revolution is a service to the United States and Zionism.

LIBYA-PDRY SIGN ECONOMIC AGREEMENT IN ADEN

LD301059 Tripoli JANA in English 0914 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Aden, Jumada Thani 16, Mar 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- An agreement for economic cooperation has been concluded between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Democratic Republic of Yemen.

The agreement stipulates cooperation and coordination between both sisterly countries in planning, development, industry, fishing, agriculture, education, work force, and training.

It also contained promoting cooperation in the joint ventures and joint oil exploration and trade.

The agreement has been signed by Mr Fawzi al-Shakshuki, the secretary of the general people's committees for planning and Mr. 'Abd al-Qadir Ba Jammal, the minister of industry in the Democratic Yemen Republic.

PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE LEADERS ARRIVE IN TRIPOLI

LD312005 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli 31 Mar (JANA) -- A number of Palestinian resistance faction leaders arrived in Tripoli at noon today. They were: Brother Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)-General Command; 'Isam al-Qadhi, secretary general of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards -- As-Sa'iqah forces; Samir Ghawshah, the secretary general of the Palestine Popular Struggle Front; Zaki az-Zayn, member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front General Command; and Haytham 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau of the Palestine Popular Struggle Front.

SUDAN

MORE LIBYAN 'AGENTS' ARRESTED AT ENTRY POINTS

JN311454 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Mar (SUNA) -- The state security organs have arrested six Libyan agents at the country's entry points. This brings to 62 the number of the Libyan regime's agents so far arrested for taking part in the implementation of the 18 February scheme previously unearthed by the security organs.

A responsible source in the state security organs stated that the defendants made confessions in which they defined the tasks entrusted to them and revealed important facts about the popular front's organization and the revolutionary committees formed by Al-Qadhdhafi to implement his subversive schemes in Sudan. The source added that investigation has been completed with most of the defendants and that state security tribunals will be formed at the end of investigation.

On another level, a committee has been formed from the competent organs in Darfur Province to investigate the cases of the three Libyans who were recently arrested in Mellit in Darfur Province in western Sudan. Preliminary investigation shows that those three Libyans made false statements when they said that they work for a Libyan Al-Qafilah transport company in Al-Kufrah and lost their way. Meanwhile, information received by the security organs said that they do not work for that company and that the company itself denied sending any vehicle during that period.

It will be noted that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi admitted in his recent speech on evacuation day that he had formed revolutionary committees inside Sudan.

NUMAYRI'S ADDRESS ON MARTYRS DAY REPORTED

JN291158 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1058 GMT Mar 83

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Mar (SUNA) -- Field Marshall Ja'far Numayri, the president of the republic, defense minister, and commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces, this morning made an address through the information media on the occasion of Martyrs Day today.

His excellency said: Martyrs Day is the day on which we renew the pledge that our enemies shall not succeed in harming Sudan as long as it is defended by the souls of its martyrs and the sacrifices of its sons. Sudan shall be a cemetery for the covetous and those who plot against its unity. Sudan shall spite its enemies by increasing the achievements and gains of its people.

Numayri reasserted that Sudan cannot but be a cemetery for Al-Qadhdhafi's ambition. Sudan, he said, will foil Al-Qadhdhafi's plans, objectives, delusions, and impossible dreams to control this country or to impose his wish on the Sudanese. Martyrs Day, he added, is the day on which we commemorate our martyrs. Sudan stands for just peace, is against imperialism and racial discrimination, and supports people's right to self-determination he concluded.

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE DISCUSSES USSR-LIBYA TREATY

JN301848 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Mar (SUNA) -- The People's Assembly's foreign policy committee has discussed in its meeting here the USSR's intention to sign a defense treaty with Libya and the consequences that this will have on Sudan and the African countries.

The committee's Chairman Muhammad Kahal Hamadtu explained that the treaty will have serious consequences because a big power such as the USSR will be involved in an alliance with an African country that has revealed its destructive intentions. He noted Al-Qadhdhafi's acts of sabotage in Egypt, Tunis, the Western Sahara, and Uganda and his military intervention in Chad as well as several incidents in the world at large.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak explained the negative effects this treaty will have by saying that it will seriously harm the nonaligned principles and the African-Arab cooperation and solidarity.

The committee's chairman and members stressed the importance of exposing the objectives of this treaty in regional and international parliamentary forums. They stressed the importance of the strength and cohesion of the domestic front in confronting Al-Qadhdhafi's conspiracies, reaffirming that every inch of Sudan will be a graveyard for the would-be invader.

The committee adopted a work plan for intensifying political work at the Foreign Ministry level with governments and international organizations, and on the foreign policy committees level with regional and international parliamentary federations with the aim of warning of the dangers of such a treaty to the Nonaligned Movement at a time when all efforts are trying to strengthen this movement and rectify its march.

KENYA

VICE PRESIDENT ON FOUNDING OF PARTY PAPER

EA301336 Nairobi THE NAIROBI TIMES in English 30 Mar 83 p 1

[Article by William Onyango: "Press Freedom Here To Stay, Says Kibaki"]

[Excerpts] The permanent secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Jaffeth Shamalla, has been appointed the managing director of the KENYA TIMES Limited (as Stellascope Ltd is to be known), a KANU-owned company which will publish the "KENYA TIMES" and the sister publication "KENYA LEO".

Announcing the appointment yesterday, the vice-president and minister for home affairs, Mr Mwai Kibaki, who is the ruling party's (KANU) vice-president, said that other directors will be announced soon. He said a committee had been set up to look into the running of the company, which is to be registered soon.

Kibaki assured journalists who will be working for the "KENYA TIMES" that their freedom of press would be guaranteed since the paper would have to operate as a business venture and compete with other dailies. He also said that stories for publication would be chosen on their order of merit without undue influence from the party headquarters.

Kibaki added that the committee will also appoint an editor in chief in due course. KANU will also set up the Kenya Press Trust Limited, which will be a holding company of KENYA TIMES Ltd. and Press Trust Printers Ltd., the printing subsidiary of KENYA TIMES Ltd.

The vice president said other negotiations were still going on.

He assured all the employees of Stellascope Ltd of jobs with the same terms and conditions of service without any interruption.

According to Kibaki the proposed KANU newspaper will be operating as a business concern in competition with the other daily newspapers in the country. He said the only way a party newspaper would succeed was to run it by rules governing the newspaper industry. He assured journalists of freedom of the press, but added that the party on its part expected reporters to work independent of political bias.

Kibaki, who was talking at the offices of the "NAIROBI TIMES" addressing members of the management and editorial staff, said the management of the proposed newspapers will not be affected by any district KANU political squabbles. All policy decisions that affect the paper would be made from the KANU headquarters, not by individual KANU leaders, Kibaki said. The "KENYA TIMES" will carry all KANU announcements. He said it was not the intention of the Kenya Government to nationalise any company.

About the policy of the paper, Kibaki said as KANU we are a mass movement and are not narrow minded to support only one ideology. KANU has people with different views but we have our own philosophy, nyayo [footsteps], which is capable of accommodating all political views, he said. The policy of "KENYA TIMES" and "KENYA LEO", he said, will be a commitment to the fundamentals of social democracy including free education and free medical services to the poor and the disabled. He said the newspaper will not promote one individual politician or ideology. The emphasis he said must be Kenya. He said pressmen of the developed countries were committed nationalists of their countries.

He said Kenya had not had any problems with the press, but warned that there must be discipline both within the party and other professions in order to make the best out of them. He said that with discipline lacking, KANU would not manage to run the newspaper in the competitive world of business. The newspaper, he said, must be self-sustaining without the government pouring into it more money. He said the government will not be able to create such money without the paper being financially-self-sustaining. Its management must be fully independent. They must have the freedom to report objectively, the freedom to decide what is news. What issue is worrying the public? What news is the public interested in? said Kibaki.

As a party we have no expertise to write newspaper stories. We may be good in writing other things but not newspaper stories, he said. We cannot write headlines and therefore these will not be dictated by KANU. But it has to be reported in a manner editors see fit, he said.

The first issues of KENYA TIMES and KENYA LEO would be out early next month, he said.

UGANDA

OBOTE ADDRESS OPENS NEW PARLIAMENT SESSION

EA300936 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1140 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Speech by President Milton Obote at third session of fourth Parliament at Parliament House, Kampala -- live]

[Excerpts] Mr Speaker, today is the beginning of the third session of the fourth Parliament. By the end of this session the fourth Parliament will have lived more than half of its constitutional life. It is therefore an appropriate occasion to take stock of the past and project the future.

The basic policy for this session, Mr Speaker, will remain as previously pronounced in the first session: the promotion of activity (?to aim) at nation-building. It is government's basic objective that the period of the fourth Parliament should go down in history as one which laid the basis for unity and established a strong platform for recovery and nation-building. [background murmurs of "Here, here"]

The period [words indistinct] and the economy of the country and the recovery of the economy, leading to the attainment of a higher standard of living. Mr Speaker, the house is aware that the authority of this Parliament has been challenged by men who do not believe in parliamentary rule. I gave the house last year a (?private) talk on the activities of these men of violence, which activities started long before the general election of December 1980. After the general election, the misguided among us and those who want to play with wishful thinking concluded that this Parliament and the government would not last for a year.

(?Honorable) Mr Speaker, [words indistinct] [laughter] the men of violence fixed date upon date for the success of their [word indistinct]. All such dates came and went. No doubt, in their delusion the men of violence (?and) the opponents of parliamentary rule would set other dates which (?would) come and go. (?This) [word indistinct] the reality of this situation is that the men of violence and the opponents of parliamentary rule have now failed, which the people of Uganda [words indistinct]. That is the reason why the activities of these men have always been wanton, indiscriminate killings and destruction.

The house, I am sure, joins me [words indistinct] loss of life and destruction of property. Our detractors have attempted to portray our security situation as one where guerrillas control areas of Uganda and are (?aiming) to overthrow the government. Mr Speaker, criminals, thugs, and bandits may shoot at a vehicle on the road or they may try to lay mines here and there, but to say that they control any area of Uganda or that they have the capability to overthrow the government is more than wishful thinking [words indistinct]. [laughter]

The problem for this subject is the same as in any other country in the world. (?It is) the problem of crime, suffering, and hardship. Mr Speaker, since the house went into recess, banditry activities have diminished, and isolated incidents of a desperate nature are being settled effectively by the security forces.

Sir, now I want to give the house a short report on the achievements recorded by the people of Uganda during the past 2 years. Mr Speaker, I report:

During the past 2 years peace has returned to almost every part of Uganda, barring only isolated areas. [Words indistinct] activity both in agriculture and industry has been brisk beyond our expectations. Our Parliament is working and continues to debate policies and enact laws. The trade unions and cooperative movement are virile and are effectively contributing to the recovery of the economy. There is freedom of (?culture), expression, assembly, association, and movement. The youth of Uganda is [word indistinct] overcoming the effects of the 9 traumatic years before liberation. Business is picking up everywhere and magendo [blackmarketeering] has become almost a thing of the past. [laughter] Mr Speaker, [words indistinct].

Mr Speaker, sir, 2 years ago the public service was demoralized and lacked (?support) and power. Today men and women of the public service are increasingly gaining confidence in themselves and in their work. Our law courts are as free as those of any other democratic country. [laughter] Conditions in Uganda prisons have improved tremendously and the prisons are almost self-sufficient in food. [cries of "here, here"]

Sir, Uganda's National Liberation Army has virtually returned to barracks. The Rwenzururu [west border area] movement [laughter], Mr Speaker, sir, the Rwenzururu movement voluntarily disbanded itself and is (?vowed) to join in the nation-building efforts. In the West Nile, that is, in the district of Arua and Moyo, hundreds of people who had fled the country have (?recently) returned and have continued to return and have embarked on large-scale productivity efforts.

Mr Speaker, the house is aware that soon after liberation cattle rustling caused grave security problems in Karamoja and the surrounding districts. Mr Speaker, due to government (?measures), that grave security situation no longer exists.

In the Ministry of Finance I report that there are big, substantial improvements in our balance of payments position. Mr Speaker, when the Uganda People's Congress, the UPC, assumed office in December 1980, the balance of payments position was not the same. At that time, Uganda was depending on average monthly foreign exchange earnings of $12 million, of which 8 million was committed [words indistinct] of petroleum products. (?In recent) months, Mr Speaker, our foreign exchange earnings averaged (?slightly more than) $30 million per month.

Sir, there are [words indistinct] before this Parliament was elected that Uganda was one of the countries with heavy debts. During the recess, honarable members must have read a lot about the plight and indebtedness of the Third World countries. I want to give the house the true picture of Uganda's indebtedness. In 1981 government ordered a comprehensive study, analysis, and [word indistinct] of Uganda's debts. The report, Mr Speaker, showed clearly that those men and women who managed Uganda's finances in the sixties were very wise and most (?prudent). [applause] Sir, (?the house notes) that as from the end of 1972, the regime then in power found it increasingly difficult to raise loans from abroad. I report to the house that in May 1981 our external debt arrears stood at $121 million. This amount accumulated during the military (?regime), By the end of 1982 the arrears had been reduced from $121 million to $68 million. [applause]

Mr Speaker, Uganda has continued and will continue to honor her recurrent debt-service obligations. Total public debts, including arrears, according to the study I have just mentioned, stood at $758 million as at 31 August in 1981. This amount was reduced to $612 million by the end of 1982. [Passage indistinct] the countries that canceled debts, for which we are most grateful, are the FRG, the U.S. Government, the Netherlands, Denmark, and (?Canada).

Mr Speaker, the figures I have just given represent a most commendable performance on our part -- a performance to improve Uganda's (?credit-worthiness) in international financial circles. They also show clearly that Uganda is not one of the debt-ridden countries. In addition to the figures I have given, we have, since the introduction of the present fiscal and monetary measures, received from the IMF credit to the tune of $269 million. We have also to pay by the end of June this year $30 million on matured letters of credit. There are also other debts amounting to $35 million.

Sir, even if all these are taken into account, it is clear that Uganda is not heavily indebted, particularly since the wisdom and prudence of the sixties are now back in the saddle. [applause]

Mr Speaker, government's fiscal and monetary policies, approved by this house in the first and second sessions, have been [passage indistinct] and in the current capital inflow from foreign investors [word indistinct]. The first point to be noted is that the UPC's policy on these properties was not forced upon the party by any external pressure or influence. The second point to note is that UPC's policy is a (?whole) departure from the past policy and practices, which encouraged corruption and nepotism and discouraged investment, development, and honest business (?practices).

In short, Mr Speaker, UPC's policy is for the disposal of these properties either through (?sale) to citizens of Uganda or (?repossession) by the former owners. It means the end of allocation. [laughter] It (?further) means establishing the legal [word indistinct] for the ownership of this property so that any Ugandan who acquires any such property cannot be removed with a wave of the hand or a stroke of the pen. We would not be worried by any change of government and his entitlement to the ownership of the property would be (?dearly) protected by the Constitution and other laws of this country.

Mr Speaker, the house is aware that the Expropriated Properties Act was passed by Parliament and assented to on 6 November of last year. The act came into force on 21 February of this year.

The house has passed the necessary legislation and the law is now being [words indistinct] by the government. We have opened offices in New Delhi, London, and Ottawa for the receipt of applications for claims. Another office will soon be opened in Nairobi. I am confident, Mr Speaker, that the removal of uncertainty about the ownership of this property will stimulate investment, improvement, and better maintenance of the property. The implementation of the act will also redress the violation of human rights, where properties were expropriated without compensation.

I should like, Mr Speaker, to repeat here what I have said on two previous occasions elsewhere about the Expropriated Properties Act. It is not another immigration facility for the former owners to return to Uganda. I repeat: It is not another immigration facility for the former owners to return to Uganda. [laughter]

Mr Speaker, I would like to assure the house and the country at large that the prime purpose of this act is to settle the problem of ownership of this property in the best interest of Uganda, while taking into account the legitimate claims of the former owners.

Last year, Mr Speaker, the house was promised that a bill to amend the Foreign Investment Protection Act would be presented to the house. It was found to be inappropriate to present the bill before resolving the question of the ownership of the expropriated property. The government also ecnountered difficulties in [words indistinct] to establish a reinsurance corporation and to amend the National Insurance Corporation Act. Work is continuing in order to overcome the difficulties encountered.

Sir, during the course of last year, the minister of finance found it necessary to close the Libyan Arab-Uganda Bank for Foreign Trade and Development. This was done in the best interests of the depositors, shareholders, and the country. Since then, meetings of shareholders have been held which led to a meeting of the Board of Directors in Kampala recently. The Board (?then) presented to the minister their resolutions regarding the reopening of the bank, that is, the Libyan Arab-Uganda Bank for Foreign Trade and Development [laughter] tentatively scheduled for June this year. I take this opportunity, Mr Speaker, to reassure the house that the minister of finance will consider the resolutions of the Board in the best interests of the country, shareholders, and depositors.

In the tourist sector, Mr Speaker, efforts will be directed toward the rehabilitation and conservation of wildlife (?in the country). Sir, negotiations with various international organizations and countries are continuing in order to secure the necessary funds for the rehabilitation of the tourist sector, including national parks, game reserves, park lodges, and hotel units.

Mr Speaker, government, in conjunction with friendly countries and international organizations, have started a program for rehabilitation of the transport sector. The capacity and efficiency of the railway system have been analyzed and plans are under way to overhaul the facilities and operations of the Uganda railways. The installation of a microwave signaling and communication system on the Toroka-Kasese line and the construction of the diesel locomotive repair workshop at (Nalukulongo) are both at an advanced stage. [applause] As a result, (?in) the road transport for goods and passenger services, there has been remarkable improvement as evidenced by the increased volume of traffic on our roads today. Efforts are being made, Mr Speaker, for (?supply) to construct the equipment and machinery for (?improved) surfacing of major and feeder roads.

Sir, the house is already aware that the construction of Masaka-Kampala road has started. Marine services on Lake Victoria have been developed to improve water transport facilities within the region. This will certainly lead to better communications between Uganda and those of our neighbors with whom we share the waters of Lake Victoria.

Mr Speaker, sir, last year I announced the inclusion of rehabilitation and reconstruction of the towns of Masaka, Mbarara, and Arua in the recovery program. Preliminary plans for the central area of Mbarara and Masaka have been drawn and are being discussed with [words indistinct]. A similar plan for Arua has recently been completed and will likewise be discussed.

Sir, Uganda has continued to pay a substantial proportion of her foreign exchange earnings for the purchase of petroleum products. We expect that with the speeding up of the economy the proportion of the foreign exchange committed for these items will decrease. At present the country depends for most of its energy requirements on the electricity supply from the Owen Falls power station. Plans are in hand to upgrade this (?said structure) so that it can provide 33 percent more power by (?next year). The program for expanding rural electrification, which was revised last year, will continue as projected. This will ensure the supplies of electricity to most of the district headquarters, (?most) hospitals, schools, and other institutions.

Mr Speaker, sir, the electrification, the administration of telecommunications (?facilities), and the postal facilities will be intensified. Plans are under way to acquire more powerful transmitters (?also) for radio and television. It is plain that by the end of the year, or rather this year, 1983, there is to be a wider coverage both of radio and television.

Mr Speaker, in the field of education government has continued to rehabilitate schools and other institutions of higher learning. The provision of scholastic materials improved significantly during the last session. I am happy, Mr Speaker, to report that government has successfully negotiated with the World Bank and friendly governments and other international organizations loans and grants amounting to slightly over (?$34) million for the rehabilitation of educational institutions. [applause]

Mr Speaker, there has been a significant increase in the provision of medicines and hospital equipment. It is government's objective to build on this promising beginning by improving and expanding medical facilities throughout the country. Training of personnel in the medical field has continued to receive priority. Government has negotiated the rehabilitation of 16 training schools. The program will cost just under $6 million.

Mr Speaker, the policy of assisting widows and orphans will continue during this session. Last year government authorized a countrywide course [words indistinct] of widows and [words indistinct]. The course was well received and more will be organized in the (?future). More sewing machines are on order and will be (?sold) to widow associations. The policy of paying school fees for orphans will also continue.

Mr Speaker, sir, government has worked out a special multipurpose development project for Karamoja. This project aims at long-term solutions to the problems of the nomadic life made (?frequently) worse by the (?vagaries) of weather in the region. The project has started and its implementation will be intensified during the session.

Sir, the district youth (?councils) have been established to coordinate the activities of various youth organizations. The (Atago Achofi) youth center, which was inaugurated last year, will soon be opened for training of youth in various trades and skills.

Sir, the welfare of the disabled continues to receive government attention. Training centers and sheltered workshops are being re-equipped and are now operational. Work on the new center at (Nagongera) in Tororo District is in progress. It is expected that work will be completed and the center opened during this session.

Mr Speaker, sir, I now turn to a brief discussion of our foreign policy. I reaffirm that Uganda's foreign policy will continue to be guided by two main principles, mainly the preservation of our national independence and secondly our territorial integrity. Within this overall policy, Uganda has strengthened her relations with all her neighbors. We are actively participating in all organizations and meetings for regional economic cooperation. We became members of the Kagera River Basin Organization because we wanted to strengthen relations with sister countries in our neighborhood, whereas we are a founder member of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa, an organization whose charter has now been ratified by 12 countries and is bound to have a full membership of 18 or more countries.

Toward the end of 1982, Mr Speaker, there was considerable and strong publicity abroad regarding our relations with the Republic of Rwanda.

Honorable members of this house and indeed the people of Uganda know in the late fifties and early sixties there was a revolution in Rwanda. During that revolution, a large number of citizens of Rwanda fled their country and (?some of them) sought refuge in Uganda.

I would like, Mr Speaker, to make one point absolutely clear, and that is the meaning of the word "Munyarwanda [Rwandese]." I speak with all the authority of the Government of Uganda and I believe this house as well, and the entire country, when I say that any Ugandan citizen who is a Munyarwanda is as much a citizen as any other Ugandan. [applause] A citizen of Uganda may be in Rwanda or in other parts of Africa. He may be in Europe or in other continents, but he would never be denied by this government the right to return and settle anywhere in Uganda. [applause]

The house knows that the determination of who is a citizen of Uganda is a matter of fact and law, which is clearly spelled out in the Uganda Constitution and the citizenship law. The fact that there are persons who can also be described as Banyarwanda [Rwandan] but who are not citizens of Uganda does not remove citizenship rights from those Banyarwanda who are citizens of Uganda and are not citizens of the Republic of Rwanda or any other country. [applause]

The matter of the citizens of Rwanda who sought refugee [as heard] in Uganda is now being handled amicably by the Government of Uganda, the Government of Rwanda, and the UNHCR. [UN Office of High Commissioner for Refugees]. Representatives of the Governments of Uganda and Rwanda have held a number of meetings. At the last meeting, which was chaired by a representative of the UNHCR, the two governments agreed on the principles and [word indistinct] to be used in identifying persons in (?border) parts of Rwanda as well as refugees in settlements and other areas in Uganda. The two governments also agreed to voluntary repatriation of persons who are (?proven) citizens of their respective countries. Further, the two governments agreed on the procedures for the implementation of decisions taken at the Kabal meeting.

Mr Speaker, I would like the house to know of the most crucial factor in this matter. The Rwandese who sought refugee in Uganda in early sixties were described in our laws, laws made before independence, as Batutsi. It is the problem of the acceptability of the Batutsi by the Government of Rwanda. This is the most crucial factor in this matter. Rwanda, Mr Speaker, has been a stable country for some 20 years. The Government of Uganda is of the view that it should now be possible for the stable Government of Rwanda to allow such Batutsi who want to return to Rwanda to do so. [applause]

Mr Speaker, sir, throughout 1982 Uganda, with her former partners of the East African Community [EAC], were engaged in negotiations to find a lasting solution for an equitable sharing of the assets and liabilities of the former EAC. Uganda, in these negotiations, despite the collapse of the community, (?seeks) new avenues for closer cooperation with our former partners in the EAC.

Sir, Uganda remains (?as a strong) and committed member of the OAU. In the 18th summit held in Nairobi in 1981, Uganda was elected to the bureau, which is the cabinet of the OAU. The house already knows that the 19th OAU summit was not held in Tripoli last year. However, Uganda and 11 other countries have been elected through consultations to form what is known as the contact group of 12. The task of the contact group is to find ways and means for convening the 19th OAU summit. The last meeting of the contact group decided that the 19th summit be held in Addis Ababa in June this year.

ANGOLA

ANGOP ON CSSR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER'S ARRIVAL

AB311535 Luanda ANGOP in French 1430 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Luanda, 31 Mar (ANGOP) -- Stanislav Svoboda, the Czechoslovak deputy minister for foreign affairs, arrived in Luanda yesterday bringing a message from Czechoslovak head of state Gustav Husak to his Angolan counterpart, Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

It is indicated that during his stay in Angola, the Czechoslovak deputy minister will hold talks with Angolan officials of the Foreign Affairs Ministry as well as with other officials of the MPLA-Labor Party. It must be recalled that before taking up his current post, Stanislav Svoboda worked in the People's Republic of Angola for 3 years as his country's ambassador to the Angolan Government.

CUBAN FINANCE DIRECTOR ON 30-DAY VISIT

AB301842 Luanda ANGOP in French 1402 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Luanda, 30 Mar (ANGOP) -- A Cuban delegation from the State Committee for Finance led by Wilfredo Marredo, the director for finance of the enterprises sector [title as received], is in Luanda within the framework of an interministerial cooperation program, official sources disclosed in Luanda. According to these sources, the delegation, which will stay 30 days, has already visited the Angolan Ministry of Finance, learned the functions of the national headquarters for finance and accounts, and familiarized itself with the principal financial laws of the People's Republic of Angola.

Besides the delegation's activities with their Angolan counterparts in the fields of finance and accounts, it will also familiarize itself with Angola's socioeconomic realities. It will later visit enterprises, museums, and historic sites of Angolan culture.

In accordance with the official program, the Cuban delegation will also visit the provinces, specifically Huila, Benguela, and Malanje.

PARTY ORGANS BEGIN MEETING IN LUANDA

AB301513 Luanda ANGOP in French 1357 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Luanda, 30 Mar (ANGOP) -- A joint meeting of the Political Bureau and Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party began in Luanda this morning under the chairmanship of Jose Eduardo dos Santos, MPLA-Labor Party chairman and president of the republic. According to the agenda of the meeting, which will last 2 days, the participants will examine issues that center on the problem of the party's leading role and its functioning as well as the major aspects of the 1983 action plan.

Participating in that meeting are the coordinators and assistant coordinators of the provincial committees, the directors of the various Central Committee departments, and the national first and the second secretaries of the MPLA-Labor Party youth wing.

BOTSWANA

GOVERNMENT REFUGEE MEASURES REPORTED 1 APR

MB010912 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] An official in the office of the president of Botswana says his government has now devised a method of stopping all Zimbabwean refugees entering the country from crossing into South Africa. Comrade (Mpotokwane) told ZIANA in Gaborone yesterday that all refugees will now be issued with identity cards, and a roll call will be taken every day to check on those missing.

He said there are at present 3,000 Zimbabwean refugees in Botswana, and the Gaborone government is trying to ensure that they do not commit acts of aggression against Zimbabwe.

Comrade (Mpotokwane) confirmed reports that 95 ZAPU supporters, including two Central Committee members, fled into Botswana shortly after Mr Nkomo's flight to that country. However, he denied reports that Mr Nkomo was given an audience by an official from the president's office.

LESOTHO

COMMENTARY NOTES SARCASM OF S. AFRICAN REPLIES

MB301009 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] On 9 March 1983 Lesotho sent a message to the Government of the Republic of South Africa to the effect that plans to launch fresh attacks on this country had become known and that South Africa should stop the invasion of Lesotho from taking place. In reply to Lesotho, South Africa did not only deny knowledge of the iminent attacks -- but sarcastically said that Lesotho's message invited ridicule.

Sarcasm does not help where matters of state are involved. Now, however, only time has proved Lesotho correct, as she knew what she was talking about.

On Saturday, 26 March, only 16 days after messages had been exchanged between Maseru and Pretoria, a pitched battle, which left more than 20 people either dead or injured by Lesotho forces, was fought at Ongeluksnek on the border between Lesotho and South Africa. Those fighting on the South African side were led in the battle by a Major (McKenzie), and among the dead were found bodies of three white men. They were either members of the South African Defence Force or South African-organized mercenaries.

When the Lesotho Government subsequently sent a protest note to South Africa, upon a reminder, once more that country replied that Lesotho's protest invites a derision. The South African remarks in the whole episode are not surprising to us because Lesotho has in the past refused to accept the policy of apartheid and continues to do so. Although South Africa had been forewarned, the attack on Lesotho still took place, and although South Africa's belated reply to Lesotho's protest on the battle of Ongeluksnek on Saturday, 26 March, was received, it was already after the Hendrick's Drift attack where two people were killed by the Lesotho forces.

Lesotho has repeatedly stated her commitment to the policy of noninterference in the affairs of her neighbor, but it would appear that South Africa has abanoned that policy.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON MOTIVE FOR ATTACKS

MB301102 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 29 Mar 83 p 1

[By Jasper Mortimer of THE STAR's foreign news service and political staff]

[Excerpt] Maseru -- The Lesotho Government says it expects more attacks on its territory from South Africa's independent homelands. Foreign Minister Mr Evaristus Sekhonyana said in an interview that the wave of widely-spread raids that swept Lesotho over the weekend were part of a campaign by Pretoria to force Lesotho to recognise states such as Transkei and Ciskei.

"More and more attacks will come from the Bantustans," he said, "and then Pretoria would tell Maseru to 'talk to Umtata'. In that way they will try to procure Lesotho's recognition of a Bantustan."

Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan's government yesterday sent angry protest notes to South Africa alleging Pretoria was behind five attacks and an unsuccessful attempt to sabotage electrical installations in Maseru.

OPPOSITION LEADER CALLS ON JONATHAN TO RESIGN

MB311341 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] There has been a call for Lesotho's prime minister, Leabua Jonathan, to return the country to a constitutional rule by offering his resignation. The call comes from the leader of Lesotho's opposition United Democratic Front Party, C.C. Mofeli. Mofeli says the situation in the country was now different from that in 1970 when a state of emergency was declared in Lesotho. Since then there have been no elections in the Kingdom. Mofeli has appealed to world organizations and the international community at large to use their influence to get Jonathan to return the country to democracy.

MALAWI

BANDA ANNOUNCES GENERAL ELECTIONS THIS YEAR

MB010753 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Excerpt] His excellency the life president, Ngwazi Dr Kamuzu Banda, has cautioned members of Parliament against hypocrisy, saying what matters to him is their deeds and not their words. Closing the latest session of Parliament in Zomba today, the life president also announced that there will be parliamentary general elections this year.

In his speech to the House in the morning, the Ngwazi made it clear to the members that, although it was gratifying to him to hear everyone saying something praising him personally, to him it was deeds, and not words, that counted. He said any member of Parliament who was serious about what he was talking about should match his words with his deeds. On this point, the life president emphasized that any one who said one thing and did another was being hypocritical and only deceived himself.

Commenting on the standard of debate in general, the life president said he was happy to note that every year there was some improvement. He pointed out the importance of members identifying their subject, classifying it, and presenting it properly. The life president also expressed his happiness that there is development everywhere in the country.

He added that, although he was sorry to learn that some parts of the country in the north and in the south had little rain, he was relieved when he was told that at least there was enough food in both regions to cover the shortfall in food in those affected areas without having to move food from one region to the other.

His excellency the life president then announced that there will be parliamentary general elections this year, and revealed that the latest session was the last until fresh elections were held. In his announcement the life president said every member, including those who were nominated in the last Parliament, is at liberty to contest in the forthcoming parliamentary general elections.

Earlier, the leader of the house, Mr Robson Chirwa, reported to the house that during the deliberations the members were unanimous in endorsing the life president's view that, although inflation and recession is being experienced in the country, the living standards of ordinary people continue to improve. He said the members pledged to continue working hard in the field to improve the country's economy.

Mr Chirwa said that in their debate on the budget statement presented by the minister of finance the members agreed on the need for prudence in handling public finances on the part of controlling officers in both government and parastatal bodies. He said the house pledged its loyalty to his excellency the life president, the party and the government. Mr Chirwa said the house passed 13 bills for the life president's consideration.

Speaking later, after being entertained to traditional dances at State House, his excellency the life president made a strong appeal to the people to register as voters in preparation for the forthcoming parliamentary general elections in May or June. In his address, the life president reminded the people that the present government is their own government, and that it was important for them to choose their own representatives. In this connection, the Ngwazi advised those people who did not register as voters, to do so now, and those who registered before to check if all was in order.

The life president emphasized that in the coming elections, the people are absolutely free to vote for any one they liked, adding that everyone, too, was free to contest any seat without fear or favor. He said every seat except the speaker's was free to contest, explaining that the exception of the speaker's seat was by convention and not by law, because it shows good manners.

MOZAMBIQUE

VOFA REPORTS DISCONTENT, WORSENING CONDITIONS

MB301744 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Africa in Portuguese to Mozambique 1700 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Reports on the deterioration of conditions in our country and on the increase of discontent among the people toward the Frelimo system continue to reach us. Conditions for traveling through the country have worsened, and these conditions prevail in all the provinces. Some truck drivers refuse to operate on several of the country's roads. Meanwhile, the gap between the people and Frelimo is widening, and an example of this comes from Zambezia Province.

We have received reports from Zambezia saying that truck and other transport drivers have refused to drive on roads in the region, particulary on the Milange-Mocuba road. Most of the routes are mined, and the drivers have heeded the warnings from the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] patrols operating in the area.

This mass refusal came after a conflict that had recently erupted between the entire population of the region and the Frelimo representatives in Mocuba. While dealing with the famine in the province, the Frelimo representatives tried to force the people of the region to divert their produce shipments to the provincial capital, Quelimane. The representatives also tried to force each individual to pay them 30 meticals. The popular resistance to such government pressure was obvious, fast, and unequivocal, since the people already face enormous difficulties. The rift between Frelimo and the people was again evident in an incident similar to other incidents that take place in many other parts of the country. Thanks to its stupid and unpopular policy Frelimo has managed to separate itself from the masses.

Frelimo cannot claim that Renamo is nothing but an armed band in the service of a neighboring power. Renamo forces grow every day with people who join its ranks thanks to Frelimo's mistakes, violations, and acts of brutality. Krelimo's erroneous and oppressive policy was the reason for the formation of Renamo and the development of our popular struggle. Frelimo and Machel cannot claim that Renamo fighters are mere bandits in the service of foreigners.

Renamo guerrillas are advancing in Tete Province as well. The provincial capital now sees that its situation is getting even worse. The movement of goods and commodities has been strangled because the communication routes have been cut by landmines and continuous ambushes. Communication routes to Zambia and to the Angonia region, which is Mozambique main tobacco region, have also been cut.

There are also reports coming from southern Mozambique, and we would like to mention a few points so that we can illustrate the country's situation. According to information that we have received, Commander (Fondu), who was regarded as one of the best Frelimo military operatives, was killed in an ambush staged by Renamo guerrillas. (Fondu) was once the commander of the brigade stationed at Mapai, and later he was appointed provincial military commander of Inhambane. Recently he was replaced by Antonio Hama Thai. Thai himself is reported to have been paralyzed as a result of wounds received in an ambush staged by our forces.

As one can see it is evident that relations between Frelimo and the people have deteriorated. One can also notice that recent military efforts by Frelimo have resulted in total failure. Frelimo thinks that by intimidating and humiliating the people, and by using force against them, it will be able to solve the country's problems. How can Frelimo solve the economic problems?

Under the leadership of Renamo, the people have taken up arms and are fighting against the Maputo oppressors. Soon, we will give our country a new image and a new relationship between the government and the people so that together we can build a new and better life for all.

FINANCIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH FRG

MB311414 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] An agreement on financial cooperation between the Governments of the People's Republic of Mozambique and the FRG was signed in Maputo this morning within the framework of strengthening relations between the two countries. The document was signed by (Joao Manuel Bem-Vindo Coutinho), Mozambique's national budget director, and by Hasso Buchrucker, the FRG's ambassador to our country. This agreement fulfills some of the provisions of the economic protocol which was negotiated by delegations of the two countries in Maputo in November. Under the agreement Mozambique will be able to import up to 32,000 contos' worth of equipment, spare parts, various raw materials, and services from the FRG.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO LEADER NUJOMA COMMENTS ON ISSUES

AB310625 Paris AFP in English 0408 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] Paris, Mar 31 (AFP) -- Namibian nationalist leader Sam Nujoma would like Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, currently visiting Washington. to exhort the U.S. Administration to abandon its efforts to link anv Namibian independence settlement with a Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola, Mr Nujoma said here Wednesdav. Washington's policy in southern Africa was "based on color," he added.

Mr Nujoma, who was speaking during a brief stopover in the French captial on his way to Algiers. told AFP that he did not believe Mr Kaunda's recent talks in Europe or recent U.S.-Angolan talks were "contradictory to the armed liberation struggle" in Namibia. "We ourselves have expressed the desire to talk directly to the South Africa regime or through a third party. or through the United Nations," he said.

Mr Nujoma is president of the South-West African Peole's Organization (SWAPO) whose forces are fighting a guerrilla war against South African-led troops in the territory.

He expressed satisfaction at the official French attitude rejecting anv "linkage" between a Namibian settlement and the Cuban presence in Angola. but said SWAPO expected the French Government to work harder in cutting all trade links with South Africa.

The SWAPO leader said that according to the latest reports he received from Namibia guerrillas last week destroyed two South African battalions based at Onayena, northern Namibia. More and more whites were leaving the countrv, he said.

He said he hoped the next international conference on Namibia organized by the United Nations -- scheduled to be held in Paris at the end of april -- would give additional weight to the UN council for Namibia, which officially represents Namibia internationally. South Africa administers the rerritory in defiance of the United Nations.

Mr Nujoma expressed satisfaction at the recent conference in Lisbon in solidarity with the frontline states and southern African liberation movements, for having condemned South Africa, rejected U.S. linkage of Namibia with a Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola and pledged material supnort for SWAPO and the Namibian people.

SOUTH AFRICA

CISKEI'S LEADER REPORTS ANC ARMS CACHE FOUND

MB301543 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] President Lennox Sebe of the Republic of Ciskei has disclosed that the Ciskei intelligence service has discovered a large chache of foreign arms at Mdatsane in the east of the country. Opening the Ciskei pavillion at the Rand show in Johannesburg, De Sebe said the arms chache, which included detonators, explosives, and extention wiring, had been buried by the ANC. He said the cache had been sought by the Ciskei intelligence service for the past 2 years. Dr Sebe told his audience, which included the South African deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr (Barrie du Plessis), that the find of the ANC arms cache was frightening.

VENDA OFFERS MILITARY AID AGAINST SWAPO

MB010548 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] President Mphephu of Venda has announced that Venda has offered South Africa military assistance in her fight against SWAPO. Speaking at Thohoyandou during talks with the South African minister of foreign affairs and information, Mr Pik Botha, President Mphephu said that Venda would very like to prove to South Africa its solidarity in the fight against communism. At the same time such cooperation could help the Venda defense force to achieve higher levels of training and greater polish.

Commenting on the announcement, Mr Botha said it meant much to the Republic of South Africa that through such cooperation Venda and South Africa would be able to consolidate their forces against Marxism in the interests of the inhabitants of southern Africa.

ARMSCOR CUTS 850 JOBS IN STAFF REDUCTION SCHEME

MB311232 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The Armaments Development Corporation [Armscor] has announced in Pretoria that 850 employees are to be retrenched today in a staff reduction scheme. The workers involved have already been told.

Armscor said in a statement released this morning that the necessity to cut back on staff could be attributed to the downturn in the demand for certain armaments because of changing priorities with the South African Defense Force. Armscor had thus been obliged to limit price increases through higher productivity despite inflation, which had led to there being too many employees at the corporation. The statement said that for some time Armscor had only been filling vacancies when it had been absolutely necessary.

RULE OF COMMISSION ON KANGWANE DEFINED

MB310846 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] The Government of South Africa and the Executive Council of Kangwane have agreed that the Rumpff commission is to investigate the desirability or otherwise of incorporating into Swaziland the territory of Kangwane and other areas that were to be incorporated into Kangwane. The commission will consider the wishes of Swazis living in South Africa who will be affected by the recommendations, also the best interests of those people and any other matter that the commission considers relevant.

RADIO NDEBELE INAUGURATED IN PRETORIA 29 MAR

LD301443 Johannesburg International Service in English 0400 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The ninth radio service for black people in South Africa began broadcasting from Pretoria last night. The director general of the South African Broadcasting Corporation, Mr de Villiers, said the service, known as Radio Ndebele, is a fulfillment of a long-standing ideal to introduce a service for each of the black population groups. He said the purpose of Radio Ndebele would be to develop and promote national pride ahd healthy relations with neighboring states.

SWAZILAND

SUPREME COUNCIL STATEMENT ON MABANDLA DEPARTURE

MB311750 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] The supreme council of state, Liqoqo, today issued a statement clarifying the position following the departure of the former prime minister, Prince Mabandla, to the Republic of South Africa. The statement, which was issued by the supreme council this afternoon and signed by its acting executive secretary, Mr Robert Mabila, says in part, and I quote: "The supreme council of state, Liqoqo, is not aware of any political prosecution that is likely to be meted out to Prince Mabandla, ex-prime minister of Swaziland" unquote.

The statement continues to say that at present, there are no pending criminal charges either that are to be prepared against the ex-prime minister. It further states that, I quote: "The Liqoqo wishes to make it clear that when Prince Mabandla left Swaziland, there had been no threat whatsoever made to his life. The Liqoqo, if it wanted to detain Prince Mabandla, could have confiscated all travel documents in his possession on his dismissal. However, it felt there was no need for such drastic measures" Unquote.

The statement continues to say that the Liqoqo is aware that Prince Mabandla, as prime minister, had prepared, intended, and disseminated a speech purporting to be the speech fromthe throne at the opening of the current budget session of the Swaziland Parliament. [sentence as heard] The statement says the speech usurped the powers of the monarchy in that it ran counter to the proclamation to the nation at Lobamba of 12 April 1973, the establishment of Parliament of Swaziland order 1978, and the king's proclamation amendment decree of 1982.

The Liqoqo statement further says that all these moves were, according to Swazi law and custom, intended, I quote [announcer speaks in Siswati] to take the Incwala [annual national ceremony of Swaziland] from Lobamba and celebrate it in Mbabane. [end Siswati] Unquote.

Finally the statement says that, however, despite all this, the Liqoqo wishes to assure Prince Mabandla that he is welcome to return home and that Liqoqo has no intention whatsoever to interfere with the course of justice.

ZIMBABWE

FUEL RESTRICTIONS LIFTED BEGINNING 1 APRIL

MB301841 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The government has repealed restrictions on the sale of petrol, and this is to take effect on Friday, April 1. A statement issued by the Ministry of Industry and Energy Development this evening [words indistinct] the stations will now be able to open 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. The statement said it is no longer illegal to carry or keep petrol in containers.

The statement said the government expressed appreciation for the understanding and patience shown by the people since the restrictions were introduced in 1981. However, the government has emphasized that the public should continue to save fuel and appealed to everyone to avoid unnecessary driving and to refrain from expensive or uneconomical use of fuel.